



## Backbench revolt over Mandelson takes shine off Labour's relaunch

TONY BLAIR'S attempts to fight back after the Government's "Black Christmas" suffered a reverse last night as he was embroiled in a new row over the future of Peter Mandelson.

The Government had put the NHS at the top of its agenda - with Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, being called to Downing Street for talks about the hospitals crisis, and Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, hinting at a generous pay rise for nurses - but the effort to switch the focus from personalities to policies was hampered by a rebellion by some ministers and senior MPs against the Prime Minister's apparent desire to ensure a swift return to the political front line for Mr Mandelson.

Mr Blair's critics are furious that Mr Mandelson attended a meeting last Friday of a joint working party set up by the British and German governments. This fuelled speculation that the former trade secretary, who resigned three weeks ago, could be back in the Cabinet within a year. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, is leading the opposition to such a move. "We will not have it," a backbench ally of Mr Prescott said last night. "There will come a point at which Tony Blair will have to choose."

Members of the Parliamentary Committee, which represents Labour MPs in talks with the Government, intend to raise the issue when they meet Mr Blair tomorrow. "We don't see why Mr Mandelson should have any role at all," a senior source said yesterday.

In a further twist, it emerged that Mr Mandelson suspects reports about an early comeback are being fuelled by his enemies, who were delighted that he resigned after revelations about his £373,000 personal

BY ANDREW GRICE  
Political Editor

loan from Geoffrey Robinson, the former paymaster-general.

Last night, Mr Mandelson sought to dampen speculation about his future. "Talks of a comeback are very premature," a spokesman said. "Peter's priorities are to sort out his life and start to rebuild his political career. It is too early to say what he will do and those in the media who suggest otherwise are wrong."

Downing Street denied that Mr Blair was already planning Mr Mandelson's return. "The idea that people are sitting around in Downing Street discussing what Peter Mandel-

son might or might not do in the future bears no relation to reality," it said.

Mr Blair's official spokesman insisted there were no plans for Mr Mandelson to have an expanded role as a roving ambassador in Europe. He said the former minister represented the Labour Party, and not the Government, at last Friday's Anglo-German meeting.

The row over Mr Mandelson's future came as Mr Blair and Labour MPs called on the Cabinet to end the faction-fighting which was blamed for the

so-called "black Christmas".

The Liberal Democrats dis-

missed the initiative as "a re-

annunciation of old policies"

and the Tories said: "You only

relaunch a failing brand."

There was further embar-

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ment was looking "a bit like a

soap opera".

resignations of Mr Mandelson, Mr Robinson and Charlie Whelan, Mr Brown's press secretary. Jack Cunningham, Mr Blair's cabinet "enforcer", admitted the problems of the past three weeks had "done some damage", and he warned: "It is important that the Government not only works as a team but is seen to work as a team. That is what the Prime Minister wants from his colleagues in Cabinet." Clive Soley, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, called for a halt to "personal feuds" and said a line must be drawn under the Mandelson affair.

Mr Brown, meanwhile, sought to cement his alliance with the Prime Minister by repeatedly praising him in a speech in Edinburgh. He hailed Mr Blair's "historic achievement" in modernising the party and the country. The Chancellor also gave a strong hint that low-paid nurses would receive a big pay rise this April, insisting that the Government's extra resources for the NHS would deliver "a better service for patients, hand in hand with a fair deal for nurses".

Mr Brown's speech was the first in a series of ministerial announcements scheduled for this week, but Downing Street denied that they amounted to a "relaunch" of the Government.

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Gordon Brown in Edinburgh yesterday. The Chancellor promised 'a better service for patients, and a fair deal for nurses' David Chesham

## New terror link to Briton held prisoner in Yemen

A SON and step-son of a leading Muslim cleric based in London are at the centre of allegations linking British Islamists to a terror campaign in the Yemen.

The Independent has learnt that Mobsin Ghulain, 18, one of five Britons due to be charged either today or tomorrow over a plot to blow up Western targets in the Yemen, is the stepson of Sheikh Abu Hamza, imam at a mosque in north London. Mustapha Hamza, 17, a son of Sheikh Hamza, is also wanted by the Yemeni authorities who claim he fled when he learnt he was being hunted.

The revelations follow the statement by the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, in the Commons yesterday of the imminent moves against the "Birmingham Five" as he announced the appointment of a new anti-terrorism expert to help free British hostages abroad.

In his statement, Mr Cook

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE,  
JOHN DAVISON  
AND PAUL WAUGH



said that Abdul Karim al-Iryani, Yemen's Prime Minister, had given his personal assurance that the men would be charged within the next 48 hours.

The revelations will add to the diplomatic row ensuing between Britain and Yemen over the five Britons, who were arrested on Christmas Eve for an alleged plot to attack targets including the British consulate in Aden.

Sheikh Hamza said yesterday he had not heard from Mustapha since he left Britain six weeks ago, purporting to pursue his Islamic studies in Saudi Arabia. He added that he believed his step-son had been tortured by the authorities who he said were trying to force a confession from him. "I am sure they have been torturing him to make him admit to something he did not do," he said.

Based at the North London Central Mosque in Finsbury Park, Sheikh Hamza runs an organisation called Supporters of Shariah which acts as a mouthpiece for various Islamic groups. Sheikh Hamza was telephoned by Abu Hassan, head of a rebel group who seized 12 British tourists in Yemen, the day they kidnapped them. He

said they were acting in response to British and American action against Iraq.

Dr Iryani had also promised that no force would be used to rescue John Brooke, the British oil worker kidnapped on Saturday by Yemeni tribesmen, without prior consultation with the UK.

His pledge follows a letter from the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, demanding that he ensure that there will be no repeat of the hungred rescue attempt that saw three British tourists lose their lives in a shoot-out with terrorists last month.

The families of the British men, Shabir Butt, 33, Malik Nasser Hahrha, 26, Sameed Ahmed, 21, Ghulam Hussein, 25, and Mobsin Ghulain, 18, vigorously deny the allegations against them.

Claim and counter-claim  
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## FO helping to sell cigarettes in Third World

BY FRAN ABRAMS  
Westminster Correspondent

Embassy staff will be told

they must offer the same legal

advice and support to tobacco

companies that they give to

other British firms. This will in-

clude information on local mar-

kets which may help them to

win business ahead of foreign

competitors.

The support will be particu-

larly helpful as the tobacco

firms are facing a ban on spon-

sorship as well as the decline

in smoking in the West.

Campaigners also claimed

that health ministers had lost

a battle to curb support for UK

tobacco firms.

Although embassies will be

banned from directly promoting

tobacco, the companies can

expect to continue to accom-

pany ministers on trade mis-

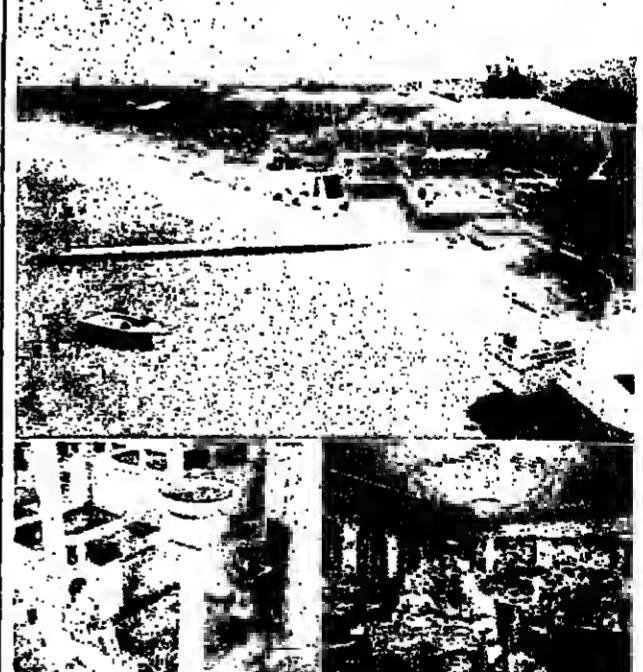
sions, take part in trade fairs

and be invited to "networking"

drinks parties.

Tobacco merger, page 6

Shares soar, page 13



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THE INDEPENDENT

ABROAD

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4.00 AF

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3.50 CS

Europe



# Riddle of Yemen's shifting sands ensnares muddled Foreign Office

BY JOHN DAVISON AND  
ERIC WATKINS

YEMEN, situated on the southern tip of the Arabian peninsula, has been one of the world's most strategically important places since the days of the spice trade. Always a hotbed of rumour and political intrigue, every twist in the current crisis of hostages and plots is again commanding the closest international attention.

Yesterday the story of five British detainees accused of terrorist activity came down to claim and counter claim between the Yemeni government and the representatives and families of those being held.

The British government was also directing its efforts to trying to secure the safe release of John Brooke, the latest hostage to be taken in the country.

Egypt and Saudi Arabia have long accused Britain of being a centre for terrorist opposition to their regimes. Could they now have the proof they have been looking for?

Links established between the detainees, the hostage-taking group and a London-based organisation suggest this could prove to be so. On the other hand, suspicion still exists that the Yemeni government could be using the situation to sidestep its responsibility for the hung-up hostage rescue and subsequent deaths last month.

Of the detainees, one is said to have made a detailed confession of involvement in a plot to bomb British targets in Aden over Christmas. He has also allegedly confirmed links between the plot and the Islamic group led by Abu Hassan, responsible for the kidnapping of 16 Westerners which resulted in four being shot dead on 29 December.

But then there are claims by three of the men to the local British consul general that they had been tortured. Their families have maintained that none of them has had any involvement in terrorism.

Behind all this are the shifting sands of Middle East power-broking, with implications that include the campaign by Western governments against Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq and the Saudi dissident, Osama bin Laden.

Supporters and relatives of the detained men are claiming racism and incompetence against the Government's handling of their cases. If the claims of torture are upheld and the men are released, allegations that more could and should have been done for them sooner will intensify.

But if the men do go to trial and some or all are found guilty then the problems will double.



Shabid Butt (top), Ghulam Hussein and Samad Ahmed (bottom), and (main picture) Abu Hassan, in prison awaiting trial on kidnapping charges



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Any found guilty would be condemned to death, and a huge campaign for their release would be certain among the Muslim community in Britain.

Britain's position would be badly damaged by the revelation that a plot to bomb British targets abroad had been organised in this country and involved British citizens, apparently protesting at the British involvement in the bombing of Iraq.

If links between the British men and the Aden-Abyan Islamic Army, led by Abu Hassan, which carried out the kidnapping

last month, were established then the Yemeni government could effectively deflect any criticism of their handling of the affair.

Samad Ahmed, 21, of Birmingham said he had been hung upside down and beaten; Shabid Butt, 33, also of Birmingham, said he had been blindfolded, his feet beaten and a confession extracted; Mohsin Ghalain, 18, of London, reportedly he had been repeatedly hit during his first week in detention, and was said to be suffering from liver problems.

The claims are consistent

with past human rights abuses reported in the country. Amnesty International, in its last report on Yemen in 1997, outlined the same torture techniques among a long list which also included electric shocks, burning with cigarettes and victims being walked on while lying naked on concrete.

Against this is the claim from Yemeni authorities that Mr Ghalain had given a full confession at the weekend, allegedly admitting to being paid \$2,000 (£1,800) to bomb the British Consulate in Aden, the Anglican church there and the city's biggest tourist hotel.

He is also said to have admitted having two meetings with Abu Hassan, leader of the group responsible for the kidnapping of the 16 Western hostages. Security sources in Yemen say Mr Ghalain got explosives and weapons from Mr Hassan to carry out the campaign.

Four days after the British group were arrested, Mr Hassan's organisation carried out the kidnapping which ended to tragically. Yemeni government sources have said that the release of the British group was the main ransom demand.

## YEMEN TIMETABLE

16-19 December 1998  
British and US bomb Yemen's ally Iraq. Conflict in Sanaa criticises bombing as flagrant aggression

27 December 1998  
Iraq foreign minister arrives in Yemen for talks.

28 December 1998  
16 western hostages kidnapped in Mawiyah by Islamic fighters of the Aden-Abyan Islamic Army.

28/29 December 1998  
Abu Hamza, disabled Afghan veteran and Imam of the Finsbury Park mosque in north London, takes satellite phone call from the kidnappers and releases information to Arab media.

29 December 1998  
Yemen troops launch attempted rescue. 4 hostages killed in shootout. 3 Britons and 1 Australian.

30 December 1998  
Imam Abu Hamza blames Yemen government for deaths of hostages.

30 December 1998  
Diplomatic row erupts between Yemen and UK over tragic rescue attempt.

1 January 1999  
Scotland Yard and FBI arrive in Yemen to assist with the kidnapping enquiry but denied access to captured kidnappers.

6 January 1999  
Yemen now reveals that 6 Britons arrested on the 24 December "have links" to the original kidnappers.

8 January 1999  
Yemen president says UK harbours terrorists.

10 January 1999  
Imam Abu Hamza is blamed in Yemen's government media for sending 6 Britons to Yemen. His son and step son are in Yemen and he fears for their lives.

SAUDI ARABIA 100 miles  
Sanaa Marib  
YEMEN Habban  
Aden  
Dhofar  
Gulf of Aden  
SOMALIA

## Mosque is heart of terror claim

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

A MOSQUE in north London and its imam are emerging as being central to the affair of the Yemeni hostages and the five Britons arrested as suspected terrorists.

A son and a stepson of the Egyptian-born imam, Sheikh Abu Hamza, have been named by Yemeni authorities as being part of an alleged plot to blow up Western targets in Yemen, including the British consulate.

One of the sons, Mustapha, is being sought by the Yemeni authorities, who say he fled after learning he was being hunted. Sheikh Hamza's stepson, Mohsen Ghalain, is being held with four other Britons by officials in Aden who believe they have uncovered a terrorist plot.

Last night Sheikh Hamza, who lost his hands and the sight of one eye while defusing a mine in Afghanistan, where he was an Islamic fighter, said: "I am convinced he has been tortured to admit to things he has not done. I am waiting to see a picture of him."

He had not seen Mustapha



The north London mosque of Sheikh Abu Hamza

for at least six weeks when he left Britain to travel to Saudi Arabia to pursue his Islamic studies.

But Sheikh Hamza's links to the affair go further than that. Operating from the north London Central Mosque in Finsbury Park, or from his home in west London, Sheikh Hamza, 41, runs an organisation called Supporters of Shariah that acts as a hi-tech mouthpiece for a range of Islamic groups, including those that have turned to terror. He spreads the word of jihad with a virulent website, pamphlets and training courses for radicals. The sheikh, who also uses the name Hamza al-Masri, confirmed yesterday that when the 16 tourists were kidnapped on 28 December, he received a satellite phone call from the kidnappers' leader, Abu Hassan, who said he had taken them to "pressure on America and Britain to stop the oppression in Iraq and Palestine." He added: "He said he hoped he would not do it [shoot the tourists] but make it a negotiated matter."

Sheikh Hamza makes no apologies for acting as a mouthpiece for groups that use violence.

Sheikh Hamza and his friends paint a different picture. The sheikh says he studied civil engineering, first in Alexandria, and then at Brighton University. The university was yesterday unable to confirm he had been a student. The sheikh's associate, Sheikh Omar Bakri Mohammed, said he provided training for young Islamic scholars.

## When Britons were the torturers

BY PAUL LASHMAR  
AND CHRIS STAERK

SECRET FOREIGN Office documents graphically recording events in the Yemen 30 years ago, have just been released at the Public Record Office, and provide a powerful echo of the current strife in that country. Political turmoil, terrorist action, shoot-outs, kidnapping and allegations of torture by the police are recorded, then as now. The only difference is that the British were still ruling Aden - now were the Yemeni. Then it was the British that were being accused of torturing detainees.

These were the last days of Britain's rule in Aden which gained independence in November 1967. Britain was trying to hand power over to a pro-British faction but other nationalistic groups were mounting a successful campaign of terror



1967: British troops in Aden help an injured comrade.

The British-run security forces were accused of torturing people suspected of belonging to the National Liberation Front (NLF). In the first six months of 1967 alone, there were 150 allegations of brutality from Arab detainees. Amnesty International took up the charges and in February

1967 the organisation's chairman visited the Foreign Office. Sir Humphrey Trevalyan told the Foreign Office: "Things have gone from bad to worse in Aden, security incidents continue at the rate of about 20 a day and unless the locals stop chasing expatriate businessmen away, the Aden will only inherit debt and a stinking pile of rubble."

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alone, the commission  
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Minister and  
the  
Home Office.  
Hannah More  
Review page

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more  
arities



The effects of physical training at Thorn Cross

THE INDEPENDENT  
Tuesday 12 January 1999

# Inspector says boot camp is a success

A CONTROVERSIAL "boot camp" introduced by the former home secretary Michael Howard as part of the Conservative government's "get tough" policy on youth crime was yesterday given a glowing report by the Chief Inspector of Prisons.

When it was set up in 1996, Thorn Cross Young Offender Institution in Cheshire became the target of criticism that it was a step in the direction of the military-style camps used to deal with young offenders in the United States.

But Sir David Ramsbotham said that the regime at Thorn Cross was far more progressive than it had originally been

A even more draconian army-run Military Corrective Training Centre at Colchester, Essex, was closed last year after only a year in operation amid concern that the results did not justify the high cost of £21,000 a year per inmate.

Paul Cavafino, director of policy at the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said the lesson from Thorn Cross was the opposite of that suggested by most "boot camp" supporters, showing that positive regimes produced positive results.

"It is ironic that the last government chose to introduce the high-intensity training regime to the accompaniment of punitive rhetoric and references to 'boot camps,'" he said.

"In fact, the regime is a thoroughly constructive one with a strong emphasis on education, community work, preparation for employment and work to change offending behaviour."

The report said it was too soon to say whether the unit succeeded in cutting reoffending rates among young offenders, but it is understood that initial results have been encouraging.

The Prison Service said official figures for the cost of a place on the HIT project were not available but were likely to be included in the first evaluation of the scheme, due to be published in the summer. The average cost of a place in a young offenders' institution is around £23,000 per year.

BY IAN BURRELL  
Home Affairs Correspondent

is far removed from the often very destructive nature of prison life."

Of the 218 prisoners who had joined the HIT project, which makes up one of five units at the open establishment near Warrington, some 161 had completed it successfully. The report said the daily regime was "very long and physically demanding", and inmates were expected to maintain military standards of cleanliness.

Sir David said a similar unit should be opened in the south of England and the best practices from Thorn Cross should be adopted in all other prison establishments housing young people.

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He said: "Thorn Cross was an inspiring attempt to create a whole regime... young prisoners completing the course had a real opportunity to benefit from the experience of being in prison - something that



Linda Stewart, who is to receive a payout for the psychological trauma she suffered as a result of the Dunblane massacre

Hughes wins top poetry award

BY DAVID LISTER  
Arts News Editor

THE LATE TED HUGHES, the former poet laureate who died last October, was last night named as the winner of the T S Eliot Prize for poetry.

The posthumous award was for *Birthday Letters*, Hughes's book of poems about his relationship with Sylvia Plath. The book, which has already won the Forward Prize for poetry, could win another award today as it is on the best poetry collection shortlist for the Whitbread Book of the Year prize.

Last night, in a ceremony at the British Library, Mrs Valerie Eliot, T S Eliot's widow, presented a cheque for £25,000 to Frieda Hughes, the daughter of Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath, who received the award on behalf of her late father. Frieda Hughes will be publishing her own collection of poetry later this year, which will be dedicated "To Daddy With Love."

Bernard O'Donoghue, a poet and Oxford University lecturer who chaired the judging panel, said: "In any other year, any of these books would have been a fine winner, but the towering presence of Hughes's accomplished, powerful and cohesive collection could not be overlooked. It is a truly great book."

*Birthday Letters* achieved extremely high sales for a poetry collection. According to sales data from Whitaker Book-Track, it was the top selling hardback poetry book in high street shops in 1998. Figures published just before Christmas showed it had sold 48,453 copies, marginally ahead of the latest novel by Terry Pratchett.

Hughes's collection of 88 poems caused a literary sensation when it was published. It was the first time he had broken his silence about his stormy relationship with Plath and interest in the book grew even greater after his death.

The T S Eliot prize, which is in its sixth year, is awarded by the Poetry Book Society.

The other poets shortlisted for this year's prize were Sarah Corbett, Fred D'Aguiar, David Harsent, Jackie Kay, Glyn Maxwell, Paul Muldoon, Ruth Padel, Jo Shapcott and Ken Smith. The judges were Mr O'Donoghue and two other poets, Simon Armitage and Maura Dooley.

This year's prize had the bonus of a stay at Charingworth Manor Hotel, the setting for "Burnt Norton", one of Eliot's Four Quartets. A spokeswoman said a member of the Hughes family would be offered the weekend break.

Who needs poets?

Review page 10

## Payout for teacher traumatised by horror of Dunblane shooting

A NURSERY TEACHER who witnessed the horrifying aftermath of the Dunblane massacre is to receive a compensation payout for severe psychological trauma.

Linda Stewart, 48, who has not worked since the March 1996 shooting in which 16 children and their teacher were killed, has already received an interim payout from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. Four other members of staff are still on sick leave.

Mrs Stewart arrived at the school gym minutes after the massacre took place, and helped tend the wounded and dying children until ambulances arrived.

She still suffers flashbacks and nightmares, rarely gets to sleep before 3am, and cannot light a match because the smell reminds her of gunsmoke.

"I feel like I'm trapped in a gilded cage with no way out. My house is surrounded by security lights because I am terrified of the dark and I won't even

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN  
Scotland Correspondent

answer the door if I'm alone", said Mrs Stewart, who lives near the primary school.

Yesterday the blinds were down at Mrs Stewart's Dunblane home and it was believed by her neighbours that she had gone away.

The payment to Mrs Stewart contrasts with a recent House of Lords ruling that police officers who suffered severe mental trauma at the Hillsborough football stadium disaster were not entitled to compensation.

The sum for Mrs Stewart has not been disclosed and the

CICB refuses to discuss individual cases. However, pre-accident suggests that it could be in the region of £20,000.

Under the CICB tariffs, victims can claim between £1,000 and £20,000 for serious stress. The amount depends on how long the "disabling mental disorder" lasts. If it is very transient, the award is £1,000, rising to £2,500 if suffered for up to 21 weeks, £4,000 for up to a year and £7,500 if it lasts for more than a year but is not permanent, which attracts the highest possible sum, £20,000.

Scotland's biggest teaching union, the Educational Institute of Scotland welcomed the award. The union's general secretary, Ronnie Smith said yesterday: "While we desperately hope that there will be very few, if any, further incidents of teachers having to make use of the criminal injury compensation facilities, they are nevertheless as entitled as any other citizens to benefit from provisions that Parliament has put in place to help those people who are victims of crime, whether directly or indirectly."

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## Tobacco giants in £13bn merger

TWO OF the world's biggest tobacco companies announced their plans to join forces yesterday and create a £13bn cigarette rolling machine.

The merger of British American Tobacco (BAT) and Rothmans International was hailed by the City, which sent their shares spiralling upwards, but was condemned by anti-smoking campaigners who said it amounted to a declaration of war on the developing world.

The deal will create a global corporation producing a staggering 900 billion cigarettes a year at a time when tobacco sales are declining in the West.

With a war chest swollen by savings from rationalisation - jobs will go, a BAT spokesman admitted yesterday - the new multi-national is expected to target the growing markets in

China, Africa, India and the Far East. In doing so, it is set to cause more deaths than any war, disease or famine has yet claimed.

It is estimated that cigarettes will claim four million lives a year worldwide by 2000 and ten million a year by 2030, of which seven million will be in the developing world, according to health experts.

But the question is whether the tobacco industry dies before its customers. The Nineties has been a decade of unparalleled turmoil for the industry in the West, with a anti-smoking legislation and a clutch of multi-billion dollar lawsuits turning smokers into social pariahs. The marriage of BAT and Roth-

mans is set to be followed by further partnerships as the industry retrenches and repositions itself.

The anti-smoking pressure group Ash claimed yesterday that more people would die worldwide as a result of the deal. The British Medical Association said: "This is an industry on the defensive. What is alarming is that it is overtly striving to recruit new smokers in the developing world because it is under huge pressure in Western markets."

The deal will reinforce BAT's position as the world's second biggest private cigarette company behind the United States company Philip Morris, makers of Marlboro. Rothmans is the fourth largest cigarette group and the combined operation, which employs 2,300 people in

the United Kingdom, will control more than 16 per cent of the global cigarette market, 1 per cent less than Philip Morris' share.

The new company will still be well behind the state-owned Chinese National Tobacco Corporation, thought to hold about one-third of the market.

Only Rothmans, which makes Peter Stuyvesant, Dunhill and Winfield and has an agreement with Philip Morris to market Marlboro in Britain, has significant sales in the UK. BAT's international brands include State Express 555, Lucky Strike, Kent, Players and Pall Mall. It also makes Benson & Hedges for sale outside the UK - Britain's B&Hs are made by Gallaher.

Despite the retreat from smoking in the West, global sales are continuing to rise, up by one-quarter since 1980. Es-

timates suggest that smoking is declining by 1 per cent a year in industrialised countries but rising by 2 per cent a year in the developing world.

BAT has cashed in on this growing Third World market. It sells 240 brands manufactured in more than 50 countries and owns the top selling brand in 30 markets. Analysts calculate, however, that Western companies have barely scratched the surface of markets in the developing world - for instance, in China barely one in ten cigarettes sold comes from a Western manufacturer. The remainder being produced by the state-owned corporation.

Partly because of government involvement in the industry, China is heading for the world's greatest smoking disaster, claiming the lives of ad

estimated 100 million Chinese men now under 30, one-third of the young male population.

The figure is based on the world's largest study of the hazards of tobacco in which scientists from China the US and Britain interviewed the families of one million people who died between 1986 and 1988. Professor Richard Peto, of Oxford University, one of the principal authors of the study published in the *British Medical Journal*, said Chinese adults severely underestimate the risks of smoking with 60 per cent unaware that it caused lung cancer.

Yesterday, Professor Peto said: "If this merger means more cigarette sales it'll mean more cigarette deaths because half of all smokers eventually get killed by their habit unless they can manage to quit. BAT and

Rothmans currently provide one-sixth of the world's tobacco. The cigarettes sold by these two companies are already causing more than half a million deaths a year and 20 years from now they will be causing a million deaths a year worldwide."

Tobacco companies are already targeting young people in promotional events across the developing world. In 1997, BAT sponsored China's first rave event in the town of Shenzhen. The company logo was displayed prominently on video screens and elsewhere in the night club. In Malaysia, the company evades the ban on direct advertising by promoting the "Benson and Hedges Bistro" - a coffee shop in Kuala Lumpur. Advertisements for the cafe are broadcast across the country.

Shares soar: page 13

Producer defends 'negative' film on du Pré

BY DAVID LISTER  
Arts News Editor

THE PRODUCER of an acclaimed new film about the cellist Jacqueline du Pré has made a stinging attack on the musician Julian Lloyd Webber, accusing him of stirring up controversy simply to promote himself and his new album.

Andy Paterson, who is behind the new movie *Hilary and Jackie*, was responding to Lloyd Webber's claims that the film tarnishes the late du Pré's reputation.

The film, which stars Emily Watson as Jacqueline du Pré, is based on the book *A Genius in the Family* by her brother Piers and sister Hilary, which details multiple sclerosis sufferer Jackie's nervous breakdown and her affair with Hilary's husband.

Lloyd Webber had written in *Classic FM Magazine*: "My main impression is that these revelations are the ultimate act of spite and bitterness."

Mr Lloyd Webber has written 'Jackie's Song' - released yesterday - in response to the movie, which he said focused on the negative aspects of the cellist's life, rather than celebrating her music.

However, Mr Paterson, said: "He didn't meet her until she was five years into her illness, so I just don't understand how he can say he knew her better than her own sister."

"Far from tarnishing her memory we'll enhance it and bring it to a new audience. Most of the world has no idea who Jacqueline du Pré is. It's certainly the case that he is exploiting this to promote his CD and himself."

Mr Lloyd Webber said that when the piece was written there were no plans for it to be included on a CD. It was his record company that found space for its release.

"I think they will find I am just the first of a lot of musicians who will speak out for Jacqueline du Pré," added the cellist, who premiered 'Jackie's Song' in London yesterday.

## Two climbers fall 600 feet in Scotland - and survive

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN  
Scotland Correspondent

Two CLIMBERS escaped with relatively minor injuries at the weekend after falling 600 feet "like rag dolls" down a cliff face on the Grampian peak of Lochmagar, the jewel of the Queen's Balmoral estate.

The two climbers who survived the fall on the favourite mountain of the Prince of Wales were Thomas Nye, 24, who suffered chest injuries and Ingrid Iredale, 20, who escaped with minor facial injuries and a fractured vertebrae. Both students in Edinburgh, they fell from a snow and ice climb known as "parallel gully A".

Sergeant Graham Gibb of the Braemar police-civilian mountain rescue team said Mr Nye and Ms Iredale bounced part of the way down the cliff face, before a 100ft fall cushioned by deep snow.

"It is a freak survival," he said. "There have been many people who have done the same

thing and lost their lives. They would have been bouncing off rocks, and witnesses who saw it happen said they went down extremely fast, like two rag dolls."

To have people survive, one with virtually no injuries to speak of, is remarkable and no body in the team can quite believe it has actually happened. There are any number of rocks there on which people would normally have been battered to death."

Extraordinary circumstances surrounding the accident on Sunday illustrate how crowded popular climbing areas like Lochmagar have become. In superb conditions - bright sunshine, little wind, and crisp snow on the summits - thousands of climbers and winter hillwalkers were out across Scotland.

The students were discovered by rescuers from the Braemar and Aberdeen Royal Infirmary for treatment.

Prince Charles gave the mountain celebrity with his story for children, *The Old Man of Lochmagar*. He was following in the footsteps of Lord Byron, who ascended the mountain when aged 15 and later wrote of its "wild and majestic" crags, extolling "the steep frowning glories of dark Lochmagar".

On another Scottish peak, a man died on Sunday as he slid 1,000 feet. Killin mountain rescue recovered the body of John Cooper Bryan, 54, of Balornock, Strathclyde, who slipped and fell on Ben More, near Crieff. He was walking alone.

A search in the Highlands by Dundonnell mountain rescue for two climbers on the 3,472ft An Teallach in Wester Ross was cancelled yesterday when it emerged they had earlier returned to their car and left.

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FRANK DOBSON, the Health Secretary, will today announce a shake-up of Britain's three high-security hospitals in response to the publication of a damning official report.

The 600-page report of the two-year Fallon inquiry into allegations of paedophile activity, drug and alcohol misuse, the availability of pornography and financial irregularities at Ashworth hospital, Merseyside, will be released today, highlighting serious management failings.

The inquiry, led by retired judge Peter Fallon, QC, was ordered in 1997 following claims that an eight-year-old girl had been smuggled into the hospital and that inmates had abused young patients on the wards. The alleged problems were centred on the personal disorder unit.

A senior doctor at the hospital told the inquiry that she had been aware that a girl was visiting a convicted child killer, Paul Corrigan, but had given instructions that the visits should be supervised by nurses.

The former health secre-

ARY Stephen Dorrell set up an inquiry, following claims by Stephen Dagg, a convicted sex offender who absconded during an escorted shopping trip to Liverpool.

Dagg, who is now housed in Rampton special hospital, near Nottingham, told the inquiry at Knutsford Crown Court last year that drugs and hard-core pornography were secretly sold inside the hospital and a near-naked girl was given a piggy-back ride by a convicted paedophile.

A senior doctor at the hospital told the inquiry that she had been aware that a girl was visiting a convicted child killer, Paul Corrigan, but had given instructions that the visits should be supervised by nurses.

The former health secre-

tary in July, the hospital's chief executive Dr Hilary Hodge, who had been in post for only 10 months, left citing "irretrievable" disagreements with her staff.

The Fallon team is understood to have drawn up more than 50 recommendations. As a result, Mr Dobson is expected to instruct managers to impose much stricter regimes at Ashworth, Rampton and Broadmoor hospital in Berkshire. This is likely to include a clampdown on the use of computers, swimming pools, and tennis courts and greater restrictions on family visits.

The Prison Officers' Association said last night that it was important the Government did not send patients with personality disorders - who are not classed as mentally ill - to jail, where there were insufficient resources to cope with them.

Dr Zena Crispin denied having knowledge of the same child spending time with convicted paedophile Peter Hemming. The panel heard sworn statements from more than 100 patients, staff, medical experts and union representa-

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Frank Dobson: Expected to impose stricter regime

INDEPENDENT  
12 January 1999  
Producer  
defends  
'negative'  
film on  
du Pré

By DAVID LISTER  
Arts News Editor

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The film, which stars Emma

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and her affair with

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Mr Lloyd Webber has re

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However, Mr Paterson

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## Crass Howard takes the heat off the Foreign Secretary

THERE WAS no sign of alcohol in the glass beside the Foreign Secretary, who looked totally sober, not to say grave, as he rose to make his Commons statement on the British nationals kidnapped or killed recently in Yemen.

Robin Cook's statement was drafted in the careful diplo-speak essential when terrorism, abduction or death threaten British citizens abroad. Normally it would have been made to an empty House, with few MPs able to point to Yemen on a map. But Mr Cook was the man of the moment, the latest minister in trouble after three weeks of disaster for the Government.

It was not all bad news. While Mr Cook may not be the most user-friendly Government minister, he is the epitome of charm and dignity when up against Michael Howard. In a crass single sentence the Conservative spokesman provided a rallying point for the unity, loyalty and solidarity of Labour MPs to Mr Cook in his hour of need.

Mr Howard exploded with synthetic rage, linking the events in Yemen with an extraordinary attack on the release of prisoners in Northern Ireland under the Good Friday Agreement. He accused Mr Cook of evading the media amid a series of ill-judged personal attacks. In short,

he blew it, ensuring that Mr Cook escaped unscathed.

The Foreign Secretary and Labour whips had done a good job press-ganging troops to fill the Government's back benches. Flanked on the front bench by John Prescott, Jack Straw and Frank Dobson, Mr Cook plodded nervously through the statement setting out the discussions he has had with the Yemeni authorities and the British ambassador. This was not Mr Cook's normal, assured, arrogant performance and it was clear that his nerves were occasionally jangling.

Unfortunately, the more he

### THE SKETCH



MICHAEL  
BROWN

spoke about "relatives" and "sympathy to the families", the more MPs' and journalists' minds wan-

dered back to the revelations about Mr Cook's own relatives and family. No one, barring half-a-dozen back-benchers who actually understood the complexities of Yemen, had their minds focused on anything except Mr Cook's marital infidelities. As he spoke about travel advice and tour operators, thoughts turned to a holiday curtailed at the VIP lounge in Heathrow airport, courtesy of Alastair Campbell.

Unfortunate phrases like "bring the full truth into the open" piqued curiosity about the full truth of claims about bottles of brandy and sleeping pills in Margaret

Cook's book. Mr Cook spoke of the need to "retain credibility among the public" and the launch of a global series of seminars and consultations to "share best practice". Such stilted phrases guaranteed time for rumination on the manner in which the Cooks' marriage had disintegrated.

Even a liberal peppering of the Foreign Secretary's statement with the Pavlovian shock word "terrorism" barely served to remind us that he was speaking only about Yemen and the fate of British citizens.

Somehow, the Government's difficulties have mounted in spite of

the fact that it had not been called to account by Parliament until yesterday. The minute the press hand back scrutiny of ministers to the Conservative Party and Mr Howard, the Government begins to be able to get away with anything.

Even George Galloway, who has an axe to grind against the Government over Middle East policy and suspects some of the British held by Yemen to be involved in terrorism, weighed in to save the day. In an echo of Churchill in 1944, Mr Galloway summed up the mood of the House by describing Mr Howard as "not being able to see a belt without hitting below it".

## Anti-terror expert appointed by Cook

A TROUBLESHOOTING anti-terror expert is to be appointed by the Government to secure the safe release of British hostages abroad, the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, announced yesterday.

The new post was unveiled by Mr Cook in the Commons as he delivered a sombre statement on recent kidnappings of tourists and an oil worker in the Yemen.

The death of three British tourists killed in a shoot-out between terrorists and local security forces, together with the abduction on Saturday of John Brooke, had proved the need for "heightened vigilance" abroad, he said.

In response to the gruesome events of the last two weeks, Mr Cook announced that the police expert would travel wherever he was needed to offer foreign governments advice on their handling of hostage-taking.

The Foreign Office security consultant, or "kidnap tsar" as he was later dubbed, would spearhead a range of Government initiatives including a series of global seminars on hostage situations.

Holiday tour operators and travel industry chiefs would also be invited to the FO to discuss

### FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BY PAUL WAUGH

Political Correspondent

cuss how advice to travellers on trouble-spots such as Yemen could be more widely distributed, Mr Cook said.

All British nationals in Yemen, who are believed to number 300, were being encouraged to re-register with the British embassy urgently.

Mr Cook revealed that a four-strong team of British hostage negotiators was working closely with the FBI to prepare a full account of the fire-fight that led to the deaths of the tourists on 29 December.

Some of the hostages have claimed that the Yemeni security forces fired first on the kidnappers, but confusion still surrounds the incident.

Mr Cook said that it would be wrong to prejudge the outcome of any inquiry but it should be made clear that the "primary responsibility" for the killings rested with the armed gang who seized the hostages in the first place.

The testimony of the survivors confirms more forcefully than any member of the House that all the hostages conducted themselves with the greatest courage and concern

for others," he said. The Foreign Secretary said that he had been given assurances by the Prime Minister of Yemen that no force would be used in an attempted release of Mr Brooke, without consultation with the FO.

The safety of British nationals is our paramount concern," he said. "We can only succeed in securing their safety from terrorism by close international co-operation in defeating the terrorist."

He added: "Kidnapping is a crime. It is the same crime whether it is committed for financial gain or political reward. We are determined to protect the safety of our nationals and to be robust in condemning terrorism wherever it occurs."

Some MPs had expected Mr Cook to be knocked off-guard by the revelations by his former wife at the weekend that he was a serial adulterer who drank heavily and harboured a loathing of Gordon Brown and other cabinet colleagues.

However, the Foreign Secretary had already received the full support of the Prime Minister and was flanked by Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, and Home Secretary, Jack Straw, throughout his

speech. The shadow Foreign Secretary, Michael Howard, made no reference to the weekend allegations about Mr Cook's private life, but did attack the FO's handling of events in Yemen, including securing information and informing families.

To Labour shouts of "shame", Mr Howard welcomed the Government's condemnation of terrorism but added: "Do you have the faintest inkling how ill your words lie with the confirming release by the Government of those convicted of the most despicable terrorist offences without any progress being made on decommissioning?"

The reference to the Northern Ireland peace process was dismissed by Mr Cook, who said "those remarks were more damaging to him than they were damaging to us".

Earlier, a Downing Street spokesman repeated Mr Blair's enthusiastic backing.

"He is doing a superb job. He is a very effective Foreign Secretary," said the spokesman.

"He is highly regarded abroad... doing a committed, professional job. He has a full agenda this week. He's getting on with it."



Home Office Minister Paul Boateng meets Special Constables Umar Hyat and Amanda Coppock in Bradford yesterday. He was there to look at three innovative schemes to recruit members of ethnic minority groups into the Special Constabulary

Nigel Hillier

## Dobson demands pay boost for nurses in lower grades

### HEALTH

BY SARAH SCHAEFER

Political Reporter

flexible employment within the health service," Mr Brown said during a speech in Edinburgh.

Speaking after a meeting with Tony Blair about the NHS winter crisis, Mr Dobson warned in a Commons statement that the icy winter could worsen present shortages.

Mr Dobson said over 2,200 schemes were under way nationally to cope with the pressures and parts of the NHS suffering particular problems.

He added they could draw on a £50m contingency fund.

Stressing the Government's commitment to end cuts in training places for nurses, Mr Dobson said it was also ad-

dressing the concerns of qualified nurses who had left the NHS.

"We want to attract them back, not just with better pay but with family-friendly shift patterns and a better and safer working environment... A high priority for more small-scale investment will include replacing out-dated and unreliable equipment."

He told MPs the flu outbreak seemed likely to be on the same scale as the winters of 1994 and 1996, although it could still get worse.

Ambulance journeys had almost doubled in Merseyside and Greater Manchester. In London, the New Year was the busiest on record with over 4,700 journeys compared with a daily average of 3,000.

He declared: "The situation

seems to be easing but it could get worse again if icy weather were to lead to a lot of falls, particularly among the elderly."

But Ann Widdecombe, the shadow Health Secretary, said his remarks would not make the "slightest bit of difference to those now lying on trolleys in fear, in pain, waiting for treatment." Blaming the Government's "judicrous obsession" with cutting waiting lists, she added: "Your early pledge has made worse the current crisis in the NHS because it has distorted clinical priorities away from patient priorities."

"Why don't you end your ludicrous obsession to cut waiting lists and change it to waiting list time and quality of treatment which is a far more sensible way of assessment?"

### THE HOUSE



#### Speaker stays

BETTY BOOTHROYD denied suggestions that she planned to step down early as Speaker of the House of Commons, telling MPs: "When I do come to that decision, this House will be the first to know about it."

#### Dome funds

THE REMAINING £20m of sponsorship money needed for the Millennium Dome should be raised with "no difficulty at all", Lord Falconer, the new minister responsible for the project told peers.

#### Pension reform

FRANK FIELD, the former welfare reform minister, urged the Government to respond to "substantial criticism" from more than 1,000 people over its plans for pension reform. He said: "Shouldn't the Government respond properly and publish a Green Paper on what the criticisms were?"

## Tories attack lack of fraud control

### SOCIAL SECURITY

BY SARAH SCHAEFER

failed to win a clean bill of health for the tenth year running.

The agency committed errors totalling more than half a billion pounds in 1997-98 and losses through fraud amounted to more than £1.5bn.

Mr Duncan Smith asked: "Will there be enough money to meet targets and no watering down of initiatives?"

Ms Eagle said targets would be met, and "far from being watered down", the Government was "gearing up" the campaign against fraud.

### London mayor poll plea

CANDIDATES FOR next year's mayor of London election should be allowed to run with a deputy on a US-style joint ticket, the Conservative Party urged yesterday.

A Conservative amendment to the Greater London Authority Bill proposes that the deputy mayor must be directly elected, like the mayor, by the capital's five million voters. The Bill, which receives its committed stage next week, currently states that the deputy will be drawn from the 25-strong assembly after the elec-

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### Aid on fuel bills

ALMOST ALL 10 million one-off government payments towards pensioners' winter fuel bills will have made by the end of next week, the Social Security minister Stephen Timms disclosed.

#### Cruise missiles

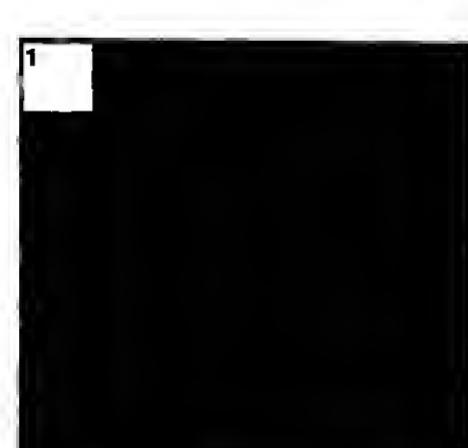
NO BRITISH cruise missiles were used in the air strikes campaign against Iraq, code-named Operation Desert Fox, during 16-19 December, the Secretary of State for Defence, George Robertson, confirmed.

#### Today's agenda

In the Commons: 2.30pm questions on the environment, transport and the regions; Local Government Bill, second reading.

In the Lords: 2.30pm debate on European Union report on parliamentary scrutiny; Government of Wales Act (Housing) (Amendments) Order; debate on dealing with violent crimes on aircrafts; debate on alternatives to prison.

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INDEPENDENT  
day 12 January 1999

THE INDEPENDENT  
Tuesday 12 January 1999

HOME NEWS/9

# Britain's new tastemaster starts work

BY RHYNS WILLIAMS

ROBIN DUVAL took over as chief censor at the British Board of Film Classification yesterday and is already having to face up to a series of thorny problems, not least of which is what to do with the proposed video release of *The Exorcist*.

To many, the post of BBFC chief censor may sound like one of the most desirable jobs in Britain but Mr Duval has the burden of following his idiosyncratic predecessor, James Ferman, while getting on with the long-term task of ensuring the board still has a task to perform in the new media age.

After 13 years with the Independent Television Commission, Mr Duval has a first-class pedigree in broadcasting regulation. As deputy head of programming, his responsibility covered not only taste and decency, but also the quality and diversity of programmes on ITV, Channel 4 and Channel 5.

And now he moves on to his job as chief censor, the joys of which were summed up in a picture of a naked couple frolicking together that used to hang in the film theatre at the BBFC. Its caption read: "We'd better see it again before we can it." Mr Ferman, the outgoing

## THE CENSOR'S IN-TRAY

### The Internet

Perhaps the biggest long-term challenge facing Robin Duval at the BBFC is the one posed by new technology. His predecessor, James Ferman, doubts if even the Government will be able to stop uncensored material from pouring into Britain via satellite and the Internet.

### The Exorcist

The board is currently considering whether to grant "the most frightening film ever made" a video release. *Relaxation of the pornography laws*

One of Mr Ferman's latter acts was to suggest that since a growing number of people lived "victorious" sex lives, the laws on pornography should be relaxed. "We have been too strict in this country," Mr Ferman said.

### The mission to explain

After 13 years at the ITC, Mr Duval is well versed in the art of explanation in the pursuit of public consent.

### Sex and violence

Mr Duval is hot on violence. Like his fellow board members, he sees the clampdown on sexual violence on film and video as the board's most pressing task.

director; believes his successor is the perfect all-rounder. "He is ideal for what we need at the moment," said a senior member of the BBFC.

"He is a very meticulous planner. Sometimes you need inspirational thinkers which we have had for 25 years. Sometimes you need a good planner, which is where we are now."

A former colleague of Mr Duval also believes that he is a

good choice: "Robin is very aware of how the ITC approached the whole issue of transparency and accountability. He understands that if you make decisions, you need to explain them publicly. That is perhaps the major criticism of the BBFC under Ferman in the last few years - they made a ruling and the public were left wondering 'who are they?'

and

why are they doing it?" Robin firmly believes that if a decision is good enough to take, it's good enough to explain."

On a personal level, Mr Duval is described as "equable" with a wide range of cultural interests that include singing, playing the piano and attending recitals. He is also considered a strong family man - he is married and has four daughters.

Mr Duval's principal concerns are understood to centre on the portrayal of violence, particularly sexual violence, and in that respect, he reflects the board's current priorities.

"He will bring a mature and sophisticated sense of judgement on content and has a lot of knowledge of and sensitivity to public feeling," the former colleague said, adding: "I sus-

pect he will find himself exposed, particularly on the video side to a lot more dress than he was used to at the ITC. "I think he will be uncomfortable to start with."

As the board's director, Mr Duval is steering himself for criticism both from libertarians who find any censorship anathema and conservatives desperate to arrest a tide of what

they see as filth and depravation. The *Daily Mail* has already branded him a "Channel 4 liberal", while Mr Ferman urged him to buy a flat jacket.

Mr Duval is not believed to be considering any changes to the current system of film classification. However, a BBFC source says he is keen to tighten the guidelines under which the board's staff operate.



Richard Poole

# Stonehenge of sea will be left to ravages of tide

ENGLISH HERITAGE, the Government's guardian of ancient monuments, has no plans to preserve the "Stonehenge from the Sea" found in Norfolk.

The circle of oak trunks, with an upside-down tree in the centre, is likely to have been a death-temple erected 4,000 years ago. It cannot be preserved in situ on its sandbank said Geoffrey Wainwright, Eng-

BY MICHAEL McCARTHY  
Environment Correspondent

lish Heritage's chief archaeologist. If a museum wanted to lift it out and reconstruct it, it could be done, perhaps for £50,000, but English Heritage has no plans to save the monument. "For us it is a recording exercise, not a preservation exercise," Dr Wainwright said.

The president of the Council for British Archaeology, Dr Francis Pryor, who last week said it was the most extraordinary archaeological discovery he had ever seen, said yesterday: "I have to say with a site of such importance, it is not enough just to record it. I think they ought to have another look at what their attitude to it is."

"If English Heritage say

they've got no plans to preserve it, then the question must be asked: who is responsible for preserving a site of such international importance?"

The council's deputy director, Dr Mike Heyworth, said: "Preserving it would obviously be expensive but it strikes me that for a site of this importance, and it is unique, it would be worth it."

Norfolk County Council's archaeology unit thinks that within two years, the action of the sea will destroy the tree circle. It has been preserved by being buried under sand and silt, which coastal erosion has now removed.

A principal difficulty is that a decision on the future of the tree circle cannot be made until archaeologists know ex-

actly what they are dealing with - which requires a precise dating.

At the moment the structure, which was probably used to expose dead bodies so the flesh would rot and speed spirits on their way to the afterlife, is thought to be early Bronze Age, from about 2,900 BC - which would make it almost a contemporary of Stonehenge.

# Four Brit nominations for Robbie, but no Spice Girls

BY DAVID LISTER  
Art News Editor

ROBBIE WILLIAMS has gathered a slew of nominations for the Brit Awards, putting the seal on a year's growth from former teenybop idol to fully fledged rock star.

The former Take That singer, nominated as best solo artist and for best album, also has two nominations for best single and for best video.

Gomez, whose debut album, *Bring it on*, was recorded in the drummer's dad's garage, has been nominated for best album, best group, and best newcomer. They are competing for the best group award with Massive Attack, Manic Street Preachers, Catatonia and Beautiful South.

The ceremony, at the London Arena on 16 February, will see Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart - formerly the Eurythmics - performing together in pub-



Shooting star Robbie Williams and soloist Des'ree

lic for the first time in eight years when they receive the award for outstanding contribution to British music.

Yesterday's nominations, drawn up by an academy of record retailers, band managers, the media and record companies, might disappoint pre-pubescent fans, as there is no room for the Spice Girls nor

Boyzone. Best female solo artist nominees include Billie, Des'ree, PJ Harvey, Linda Eder and Billie Myers.

In the international section, Madonna, Sheryl Crow and Alanis Morissette are nominated as best solo artists.

A spokesman for the Brit Awards said: "The nominations reflect that it has been very

much a pop year for British music, with nominations for Steps, Five, Billie and B'witched. But at the same time there are five nominations for Massive Attack. And, along with Gomez and Manic Street Preachers, they show a different side of British music."

The chance to play live is a vital springboard for tomorrow's musical stars. Simply Red's Mick Hucknall told a government think-tank yesterday. The prominent Labour supporter urged Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, and the Music Industry Forum to encourage live musical venues where aspiring bands can launch themselves into Britain's hugely successful £3.5bn industry.

At the forum's first meeting a year ago, Hucknall said: "I have already made my millions. This is not about me. It is about the 16-year-olds coming up."

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# Faulty heaters kill one a week

BY NICHOLAS SCHOON

A CAMPAIGN to curb the number of deaths caused by carbon monoxide poisoning in Britain's homes was launched by the Government yesterday. Each year, an average of 50 people are killed by the fumes from boilers and other heaters.

The campaign will concentrate on Wales and the Midlands where almost half of the deaths have occurred over the past 10

years. The Department of Trade and Industry says it has no idea why this is, but it warns that there is a misconception that most fatalities happen in poorly maintained rented accommodation and holiday cottages. Some 70 per cent of the victims are poisoned in homes that they own.

The department will spread the word with a road show, organised with the help of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. It will give advice on how to spot the danger signs when it visits Cardiff, Nottingham and Birmingham.

It is not only gas consumers who are at risk. Oil, coal or wood burning boilers and stoves can all produce lethal levels of carbon monoxide if they are not properly maintained, or used in badly ventilated rooms.

The department has had a safety warning printed on mil-

lion gas bills during the winter, when almost all the deaths occur. There will also be television advertisements and leaflets placed in GP surgeries.

Kim Howells, the Consumer Affairs minister, said: "Take care if you have moved house recently or moved into rented accommodation. Find out when the boiler, other appliances and flues were last checked and by whom. If all your family are suffering from unexplained flu-like symptoms contact your doctor; it could be carbon monoxide poisoning."

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IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW PAGE 3

# Kosovo back on the brink

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

KOSOVO STOOD on a knife edge last night, as Yugoslavia threatened force to free Serbian soldiers held prisoner by ethnic Albanian guerrillas, and unknown assassins shot dead a close aide of the province's moderate Albanian leader.

Urged by both Nato and Russia as well as the Pope, and threatened with imminent military reprisal from President Slobodan Milosevic, the insurgents yesterday seemed on the brink of releasing some at least of the eight hostages they captured in northern Kosovo four days ago.

"We will release some of them, probably this evening or on Tuesday," Bardyl Mahmuti, the European political representative of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), said in Geneva yesterday. But KLA commanders said the hostages would only be freed if the Serbian authorities themselves released nine Albanian prisoners.

But there was no guarantee Belgrade would accept such a trade-off - nor that a partial release would be sufficient to avert a frontal attack by the Yugoslav tanks stationed close to the town of Stari Trg in northern Kosovo, where the two men are being held. This in turn would probably sweep away the final vestiges of the ceasefire agreed last October.

Time was running out, a senior European official warned after meeting Mr Milosevic in Belgrade yesterday. Knut Vollebæk, chairman of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), claimed he had persuaded the Yugoslav President to stay his hand a little longer. But "there must be an immediate release of the prisoners if a major conflict is to be avoided."

OSCE negotiators were yesterday desperately trying to



A Congolese woman lying by her daughter in Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic, yesterday. Nearly 5,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo have fled the town of Zongo across the Ubangi river to Bangui as rebels advance

Nicolas Cottin/AFP

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# Peacekeepers claim victory in Freetown

BY ALEX DUVAL SMITH  
Africa Correspondent

DIPLOMATS WERE last night attempting to end fighting in Sierra Leone after West African peacekeepers, aided by reinforcements, said they had driven rebels from State House and were chasing them out of private residences in the capital, Freetown.

Six days into the latest rebel challenge to the elected government of the diamond-rich West African country, diplomats from across the region joined in efforts to end the fighting.

On the ground, random shooting since last Wednesday has claimed an untold number of lives, including that of an Associated Press television producer, Myles Tierney, 34. A Canadian colleague, Ian Stewart, 32, was seriously wounded.

Deprived of electricity and water and faced with dwindling stocks of food, residents of Freetown were reportedly still keeping off the streets yesterday.

Last night, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) deplored the "incessant" violence in Freetown and said more than 180 people had sought refuge at the ICRC compound in the capital. It said residents were trapped in their

homes without food and were unable "even to bury the dead".

"The rebels are now being pushed out of Freetown," said a statement from the 16-nation Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas) which funds Ecomog, the Nigerian-commanded regional intervention force.

Ecomog troops, supporting Sierra Leone's elected president, Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, have been battling rebels for control of Freetown's centre. "Ecomog has successfully taken control of State House. Efforts are being made to flush the rebels out of private residences in Freetown where some of them are still taking refuge," the statement added.

Ecowas said its secretary-general, Lansana Kouyate, would travel to Lome, capital of Togo, today for regional talks. The Togolese and Ivory Coast foreign ministers have already met President Kabbah and the rebels' jailed leader, Foday Sankoh. The commander of the rebel forces, Sam Bockarie, has rejected a ceasefire unless Mr Sankoh is released.



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## Former Soviet boss triumphs in 'grossly unfair' election

UNRUFFLED BY cries of foul from international institutions, Nursultan Nazarbayev yesterday easily secured another seven years as president of the vast mineral-rich republic of Kazakhstan in an election that was badly flawed, even by the dismal standards of post-Soviet republics.

The wily former Soviet party boss, who has headed Kazakhstan for almost a decade,

BY PHIL REEVES  
in Moscow

claimed about 80 per cent of the vote in a poll which the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) refused to recognise, saying it fell far beneath the standards to which its member nations are committed.

Among the chief complaints

was the decision by a Kazakh

court to bar from the contest the President's only realistic rival, the former prime minister, Akezhan Kazhegeldin. Mr Kazhegeldin was so outraged by the ban, and by earlier efforts to harass him out of the race, that he hired a top US-based publicity firm to draw the world's attention to his plight.

The subsequent publicity may explain the OSCE's tough

stance, which contrasts with its generally softer line over other suspect elections in the former Soviet Union. Human Rights Watch also called Kazakhstan's election "grossly unfair", and there were unhappy rumblings from Washington.

The latter should be taken with a pinch of salt. American and other Western oil and gas companies – including British Gas – have heavy investments

despotic as some of those who rose to power in the chaotic aftermath of the Soviet collapse – for example, Belarus's Alexander Lukashenko – has ensured that there is no criticism in the media and discreetly maintains tight control of the country, aided by his security services.

There have also been some signs that he is building a dynasty, with the appointment of

family members in senior jobs.

Perhaps his most disputed move, though, was his baffling decision to move Kazakhstan's capital from Almaty to Astana, on a mosquito-plagued windswept steppe in the north where temperatures reach 40C in the summer and minus 40C in winter. It cost at least \$500m which, given that three-quarters of Kazakhstan's 15.7 million population live below the

poverty line, was widely seen as money ill-spent.

The President's own comments on his victory with 80 per cent of the vote appeared to acknowledge the election's failings. "You remember the [Soviet] times when turnout was 99.9 per cent and the vote in favour 99.9 per cent?" he said. "Well, you could say that we have allowed democracy to progress by 20 per cent."

## Risk of renewed US-Iraq conflict grows

THE US has told Iraq it risks further military action if it withdraws recognition of Kuwait. As tension escalates in the Gulf, there are signs Washington and Baghdad are moving towards open conflict, on a larger scale than December's aerial campaign. There were more attacks by US aircraft on Iraqi missile sites yesterday, and the US is reported to be drawing up plans for a larger campaign of air strikes.

Iraq's parliament threatened to withdraw recognition of the border with Kuwait at the weekend but backed away and called for further discussions of all UN resolutions declared after the 1991 Gulf war. "That would be a violation of existing Security Council resolutions, and a flagrant violation," said the US Defense Secretary, William Cohen. "What we have

BY ANDREW MARSHALL  
in Washington

said is that to the extent that he [Saddam Hussein] poses a threat or moves against Kuwait or Saudi Arabia or the Kurds in the north that we are prepared to respond."

The UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, said: "This will pose a major challenge for the Security Council and the United Nations."

Kuwait placed its small armed forces on combat alert. The Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister, Sheikh Salem Sabah al-Salem al-Sabah, of the ruling royal family, headed a defence council meeting on Sunday. "We have some units always on alert since the 1991 Gulf war and the latest measure is to further boost their readiness and level

of alert," he said. Iraq has condemned Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Egypt for facilitating last month's US and British attacks and called for their people to rise against their governments. Saudi Arabia was infuriated by the call. "The truth is the Iraqi people are the ones who de-

serve and need to revolt," said the official Saudi news agency. It is possible the US may deploy more forces to defend Kuwait. There was a meeting of President Bill Clinton's national security team at Camp David on Saturday, indicating that preparations for further

military action may be under way. The US and Britain said after Operation Desert Fox last year that any move by Iraq against its neighbours or its own people would trigger a response. General Anthony Zinni, the head of the US Central Command, said last week that

any Iraqi assault on Shias in southern Iraq could be regarded as a threat to Kuwait, opening the door for further intervention in Iraq.

US aircraft attacked two Iraqi missile sites in the northern no-fly zone yesterday after they were targeted by radar

sites near Mosul. It is just the latest in a series of such incidents, as Iraq challenges the legitimacy of the post-Gulf war settlement and the presence of allied aircraft in its skies. There have also been further intrusions by Iraqi aircraft into the no-fly zones, US officials said.

## White House team vow to fight every charge

BY MARY DEJEVSKY  
in Washington

crimes and misdemeanours' as contemplated by the Founding Fathers and they do not satisfy the rigorous constitutional standards applied throughout our nation's history. Accordingly, the Articles of Impeachment should be dismissed."

While the denials in the brief were strongly worded, the decision by the White House not to demand an immediate vote on dismissing the case was seen as a conciliatory move. It was judged to be in line with the statement of White House special counsel, Gregory Craig, on Friday that the White House regarded the Senate procedures with "respect" and appreciated the bipartisan nature (a 100 to 0 vote) of the agreement on trial procedures.

Over the past two weeks, the President's legal team has made efforts to do nothing that would alienate the Senate,



Hillary Clinton holds a copy of a book on White House history during the launch of a silver dollar featuring a former first lady, Dolly Madison. Reuters

which acts as jury in the impeachment trial. While Mr Clinton's lawyers are not demanding a vote to dismiss the charges before the trial opens, they are expected to submit a motion for dismissal sometime thereafter – probably after the opening statements. It is at that time also that the prosecution is likely to submit

a separate motion asking for witnesses to be summoned: an issue which divides the Senate along party lines. Either decision would require a simple majority, 51 votes, to pass. The balance of the Senate, where the Democrats have 45 seats out of 100, makes it unlikely that a vote to dismiss the case would succeed.

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## Baptist leader's double life

BY MARY DEJEVSKY

Yesterday, Mr Lyons, 56, went on trial, charged with multiple counts of fraud accounting for millions of dollars. It transpired that while her husband was away from home Deborah Lyons, who was living in modest circumstances as befitted the wife of a churchman, had found the deeds to the St Petersburg house in Mr Lyons' briefcase.

Not only did it show that he

the house, threw her husband's suits around and lit a series of fires. She was sentenced to five years' probation for arson.

At the time, Mrs Lyons blamed her frenzy on a drink problem, and Mr Lyons said that his relationship with Ms Edwards was a purely business arrangement. But within two months, police found that not only had Mr Lyons kept a mistress, but they had maintained an extravagant lifestyle funded by money that had been donated to the church.

He was confirmed to have an illegitimate child and reports abounded of involvements with other women and lavish gifts.

Among the specific charges against Mr Lyons is that he misappropriated more than

\$200,000 donated by the Jewish organisation B'nai B'rith, which had been earmarked for the rebuilding black churches that had been burnt down.

According to prosecutors,

Mr Lyons used the money to buy the St Petersburg house, a Mercedes car and jewellery.

Bernice Edwards is charged

jointly with him and had an

early plea for a separate trial turned down.

Until his arrest last February, Mr Lyons had denied any criminal intent, but admitted wrongdoing. A year ago, he admitted at a televised news conference: "I have sinned. I am a preacher who has made serious errors in judgement."

If convicted, he faces up to

30 years in prison.

Within months, however, an investigation turned up a money trail leading back to Mr Lyons who was – and still is – president of the National Baptist Convention, the largest organisation of black churches in the US.

As Mrs Lyons admitted in court last year, she broke into



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# BUSINESS

## BAT soars as City toasts £13bn Rothmans merger

### BRIEFING

#### US Treasury may buy back debt

THE US Treasury said yesterday that it was considering retiring some government debt with the proceeds of its rising budget surplus. A spokesman underlined that the idea was "still very much in an exploratory stage," but preparatory work was under way, he said.

The White House has said that the first priority is to shore up the country's social security system. Buybacks could use reverse auctions or purchases on the open market, he said. The US ran a dollars \$70bn surplus for last year, and is headed for closer to \$80bn this year.

#### Cornish tin mine back in action

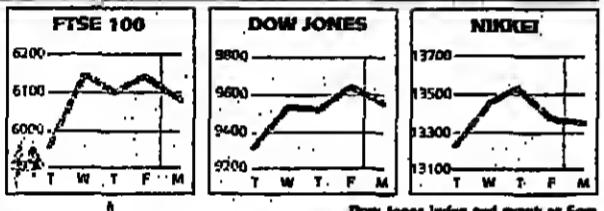


SOUTH CROFTY, the west Cornwall tin mine (pictured) which closed last summer with the loss of 300 jobs, reopened yesterday amid champagne celebrations. The new owner of the 2,600 foot deep pit, Welsh mining entrepreneur Wilf Hughes, said he had received job applications from as far afield as Brazil and South Africa.

#### Ford extends production cuts

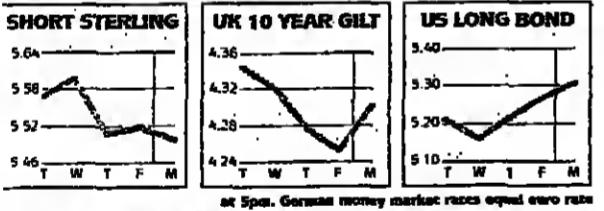
FORD IS to extend production cutbacks at its Dagenham factory because of continued slowdown in export sales. Dagenham, which produces the Fiesta and exports about 45 per cent of output, is to remain on a four-day week until at least the end of next month. Meanwhile, Fiat confirmed it was in merger talks with two or three other car makers including Volvo.

#### STOCK MARKETS



	Close	Change	Change(%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	6005.00	-62.20	-1.01	6195.60	4599.20	2.65
FTSE 250	4982.00	5.60	0.11	5970.90	4247.60	3.33
FTSE 350	2864.30	-24.40	-0.85	2969.10	2210.40	2.75
FTSE All Share	2762.73	-21.95	-0.79	2896.52	2143.53	2.80
FTSE SmallCap	2141.50	7.70	0.36	2793.80	1834.40	3.76
FTSE Fledgling	1181.30	3.50	0.30	1517.10	1046.20	4.24
FTSE AIM	815.30	8.40	1.04	1146.90	761.30	1.23
FTSE Eurotop 100	2862.92	-46.10	-1.59	3079.27	2018.15	8.72
FTSE Eurotop 300	1235.14	-18.18	-1.45	1332.07	889.63	1.01
Dow Jones	9541.78	-55.47	-0.58	9647.96	7400.30	1.58
Nikkei	13368.48	-23.33	-0.17	17352.95	12787.90	1.09
Hang Seng	10634.27	-88.43	-0.83	11926.16	6544.79	3.26
Dax	5270.60	-122.24	-2.27	6217.83	3833.71	1.63
S&P 500	1261.94	-13.02	-1.02	1278.05	912.83	1.25
Nasdaq	2356.32	11.91	0.51	2369.55	1357.09	0.30
Toronto 300	6851.10	-17.83	-0.26	7837.70	5320.90	1.59
Brazil Bovespa	6329.42	-465.09	-6.56	12339.14	4575.69	9.37
Belgium Bel20	1540.30	-33.66	-0.94	3713.21	2357.78	1.69
Amsterdam Eact	545.37	-13.50	-2.41	600.65	366.38	1.77
France CAC 40	4201.90	-43.52	-1.03	4404.94	2869.73	1.92
Spain MIB30	36733.00	-97.00	-0.28	39170.00	24175.00	1.10
Madrid Ibex 35	10248.60	-163.70	-1.57	10989.80	6869.90	1.80
Oil Overall	5278.98	1.12	0.02	5581.70	3732.57	1.37
Ku Comp	640.95	14.62	2.33	642.54	277.37	0.96
Australia ASX	2849.40	-6.90	-0.24	2902.90	2386.70	3.12

#### INTEREST RATES

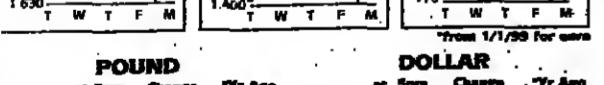


	3 months	Yr deg	1 Year	Yr deg	10 Year	Yr deg	Long Bond	Yr deg
SHOR STERLING	5.04	-0.12	5.46	-2.11	4.30	-1.70	4.33	-1.63
UK 10 YEAR GILT	4.36	-0.12	4.32	-0.08	4.20	-0.05	4.10	-0.04
US LONG BOND	5.40	-0.12	5.30	-0.08	5.20	-0.05	5.10	-0.04

#### MONEY MARKET RATES

	3 months	Yr deg	1 Year	Yr deg	10 Year	Yr deg	Long Bond	Yr deg
SHOR STERLING	5.04	-0.12	5.46	-2.11	4.30	-1.70	4.33	-1.63
UK 10 YEAR GILT	4.36	-0.12	4.32	-0.08	4.20	-0.05	4.10	-0.04
US LONG BOND	5.40	-0.12	5.30	-0.08	5.20	-0.05	5.10	-0.04

#### CURRENCIES



	1/1/98	Close	Change	Yr Ago	Index	Close	Change	Yr Ago	Index
POUND	1.6374	-0.38%	1.6224	5.46	5.46	0.6107	+0.15%	0.6164	5.46
DOLLAR	1.4190	-0.19%	1.4078	5.15	5.05	1.1544	-0.33%	1.1655	5.05
YEN	176.06	-0.48%	212.58	7.23	6.98	108.85	-0.24%	132.63	7.23
Index	99.20	+0.00	103.60	-0.76	3.79	-1.29	4.71	-0.93	108.90

#### OTHER INDICATORS

	Close	Change	Yr Ago	Index	Close	Change	Yr Ago	Index	
POUND	1.6374	-0.38%	1.6224	5.46	0.6107	+0.15%	0.6164	5.46	
DOLLAR	1.4190	-0.19%	1.4078	5.15	1.1544	-0.33%	1.1655	5.05	
YEN	176.06	-0.48%	212.58	7.23	108.85	-0.24%	132.63	7.23	
Index	99.20	+0.00	103.60	-0.76	3.79	-1.29	4.71	-0.93	108.90

#### TOURIST RATES

	Australia (\$)	2.4975	Mexican (new peso)	14.57
Austria (schillings)	18.88	5.51	Netherlands (gulders)	3.0262
Belgium (francs)	55.51	2.4208	New Zealand (\$)	2.9130
Canada (\$)	2.4208	0.7960	Norway (kroner)	11.81
Cyprus (pounds)	10.28	1.8194	Portugal (escudos)	274.23
Denmark (kroner)	1.8194	2.0192	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.9770
Finland (markka)	6.1848	2.0192	Singapore (\$)	2.6261
France (francs)	6.1848	2.0192	Spain (pesetas)	228.51
Germany (marks)	2.6984	1.8194	South Africa (rand)	9.1995
Greece (drachma)	446.04	1.8194	Sweden (krona)	12.64
Hong Kong (\$)	12.33	1.8194	Switzerland (francs)	2.2266
Iceland (pounds)	1.0805	1.8194	Thailand (bahts)	54.66
India (rupees)	62.74	1.8194	Turkey (liras)	503.65
Israel (shekels)	6.1848	1.8194	USA (\$)	1.6028
Italy (lira)	267.4	1.8194		
Japan (yen)	177.53	1.8194		
Malaysia (ringgit)	5.9788	1.8194		
Volta (lira)	0.6033	1.8194		

Source: Thomas Cook

For indication purposes only

BY NIGEL COPE  
Associate City Editor



# Forget the ethics, look at the money

ETHICAL INVESTMENT doesn't pay, it would seem. The tobacco industry is still many people's favourite bogey, a medically proven killer and sometimes liar; but following settlement of most outstanding litigation in the US, boy has it also become the City's favourite glamour stock.

Most astonishing has been the transformation brought about at BAT Industries. For years, BAT's chosen strategy was aggressively to diversify away from the dreaded weed, taking the company into a series of dull but reliable alternatives. Fine, that was the accepted way for companies to pariah industries in those days.

However, even after conglomerates started to become unashamed, BAT largely refused to accept the demerger and divestment case, insisting that no value would be created by going this route. An ultimately fruitless breakup bid from Sir James Goldsmith and associates failed to shake BAT's faith in the multi-faceted business group. It's hard to be definite about



## OUTLOOK

when the scales finally fell from the company's eyes, but under the present chairman, Martin Broughton, BAT has embraced the stock market's favourite mantra of "demerge, focus and consolidate" with a success which almost defies belief.

From beyond the grave, Sir James will be boasting his own foresight. What has been accomplished over the last year is a corporate restructuring of textbook perfectio-

nality and eloquence. First came the demerger of BAT's insurance interests and their simultaneous consolidation with Zurich Insurance to create a new pan-European insurance goliath. The merger of the remaining tobacco operations with Rothmans to form a cigarette company on a par with Philip Morris of the US completes the process. Along the way BAT has created untold shareholder value.

At the end of August, just before the insurance demerger, BAT Industries shares were trading at 500p each. Today shares in British American Tobacco alone are worth 626p. To that must be added the value of a share in Allied Zurich of 987p. The effective rise in value has therefore been more than three-fold. Few demergers and subsequent consolidations can be said to have paid off so handsomely.

The industrial logic of BAT's latest piece of restructuring, the merger with Rothmans, seems hard to fault, though the creation of a company with 16 per cent of the world cigarette market and dominance in 55 countries makes the mind boggle. The only obvious fly

in the ointment is that in doing so, BAT adds a powerful minority shareholder with 35 per cent of its capital. Persuading the South African Rupert family to take a third of this holding in non-voting stock only partially solves the problem.

At this stage, the two sides speak in unison on strategy and management, but the trouble with big minority shareholders with substantial business interests elsewhere is that they are not always prone to remain that way.

Still, for the time being all is sweetness and light and shareholders must thank their lucky stars that Johann Rupert proved as pliable as he did.

Like most modern trends, the big corporation's fondness for the global mega-merger started in the US. Intriguingly, however, many of the most recent instances were born in Britain - Diageo to create a group with approaching 20 per cent of the world branded spirits market, BTR and Siebel, and BP Amoco. Virtually unnoticed, Blue Circle has also

persuaded the Brussels bureaucrats to waive the rules which normally prevent unconditional bids being tabled. Now the new Trade Secretary Stephen Byers has rather upset the apple cart by requesting that jurisdiction to vet the deal be handed back to the UK.

These are not the kind of requests that national competition authorities often make, nor are they the sort that Brussels often refuses. The one thing that EdF has got for sure is that it will get a rougher ride in London than Brussels.

Mr Byers' predecessor, Peter Mandelson, had already made it plain that he was not impressed by the way that the cross-Channel interconnector acts as a one-way street to pump subsidised nuclear power into Britain at the expense of coal. Nor is EdF's case improved by the fact that it is bid-proof.

A six-month monopoly investigation looks to be the least that EdF can expect, followed by a set of conditions which redress the imbalance. If so, it will be the first company to discover that sec-

ond-guessing the regulators can be a risky business. As Bass, Ladbrooke, Tomkins and PowerGeo have all discovered to their cost, it pays to ask for permission first.

## Post secrets

FOR AS long as anyone can remember, the Post Office has banged on about the need to be treated like any other commercial organisation. Sadly, when it came to what was breathlessly described as its biggest announcement in 30 years, it fell lamentably short of the standards of disclosure such status requires.

We are not allowed to know how much the Post Office has paid for German Parcel, what its profits and debts are, how the deal has been financed, or the effect on Post Office's balance sheet. Commercial in confidence, old boy. No wonder its private sector competitors fear the worst, and no wonder, with such a culture of secrecy, the Post Office is destined to stay forever in the public sector.

## Post Office under fire for German Parcel purchase

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

THE POST OFFICE'S £350m acquisition of German Parcel, its first major overseas expansion, ran into fire yesterday after a rival parcel operator warned it would complain to the Brussels competition authorities over the financing of the deal.

Meanwhile, the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee called on the Government to clarify what the Post Office's borrowing powers were following the agreement last month to give it greater commercial freedom.

John Roberts, chief executive of the Post Office, would not disclose how much it had paid for German Parcel, the country's fourth largest postal operator.

commercial business, it would not have been able to borrow £200m to finance the deal.

The deal also gives the Post Office a 23 per cent shareholding in General Parcel, a much bigger international parcel operator with sales of £2bn. The stake is owned by German Parcel.

But the privately-owned parcel operator UPS said it planned to complain about the deal to the European Commission and accused the Post Office of funding the purchase out of its monopoly Royal Mail profits.

A spokesman, Anton van der Lander, said that if Parcelforce, the Post Office's own parcel business, was a stand-alone

## Shares hit as dollar falls further against yen

THE DOLLAR weakened against the yen for the ninth day running yesterday, declining to its lowest level since August 1996. It fell as

Y108.53 from Y110.85 on Friday, writes Diane Coyle.

Fears that Japanese investors might be withdrawing funds from the US ahead of the

end of the financial year on 31 March, combined with jitters about the Brazilian rescue package, also hit share prices.

Although the decline was limited by a fresh surge in technology stocks, the Dow Jones

index was down nearly 65

points at 9578.7 by mid-morning.

The weakness spilled over to London, where the FTSE-100 index ended above its lows but still down 62 points at 6,085.

Alan Greenspan, the US Federal Reserve chairman, told a meeting of central bank governors in Hong Kong that he

thought any slowdown in the

US economy would be relatively moderate.

Even so, with Japan's central bank governor telling a meeting of the Bank for International Settlements that Japan's economy has bottomed out, market sentiment shifted against the dollar. Koji Tanami, Japan's vice-finance minister, said yesterday the US had a "sense of crisis" about Brazil. It was the latest in a stream of official Japanese comments which have helped weaken the dollar.

Shares in Brazil fell 6 per cent yesterday ahead of a key vote on tax increases in Congress.

## Change to Interest Rates.

With effect from the start of business on 12th January 1999 the following Business Cheque, Deposit and Lending rates are applicable to the accounts set out below:

	OLD AER %*	OLD GROSS %**	NEW AER %*	NEW GROSS %**	NEW NET %***
<b>Business Investment Account - paid monthly</b>					
	30 day notice account				
£250,000+	5.01	4.90	4.75	4.65	3.72
£100,000-249,999	4.95	4.85	4.70	4.60	3.68
£25,000-99,999	4.70	4.60	4.44	4.35	3.48
£10,000-24,999	4.18	4.10	3.92	3.85	3.08
£1-9,999	1.26	1.25	1.00	1.00	0.80
<b>Premier Interest Account - paid monthly</b>					
	14 day notice account				
£250,000+	4.91	4.80	4.65	4.55	3.64
£100,000-249,999	4.70	4.60	4.44	4.35	3.48
£25,000-99,999	4.44	4.35	4.18	4.10	3.28
£10,000-24,999	4.02	3.95	3.76	3.70	2.96
£1-9,999	2.78	2.75	2.53	2.50	2.00
<b>Business Call Account - paid monthly</b>					
	3.35				
£250,000+	3.14	3.10	2.89	2.85	2.28
£50,000-249,999	2.78	2.75	2.53	2.50	2.00
£10,000-9,999	2.48	2.45	2.22	2.20	1.76
£1-1,999	2.22	2.20	1.97	1.95	1.56
<b>Practice Call Account - paid quarterly</b>					
	4.37				
£1+	4.30	4.11	4.05	4.05	3.24
<b>Designated Clients Account - paid quarterly</b>					
	4.37				
£100,000+	4.30	3.96	3.90	3.90	3.12
£50,000-99,999	4.27	4.20	3.96	3.90	3.12
£10,000-9,999	4.01	3.95	3.60	3.55	2.84
£2,000-9,999	2.93	2.90	2.68	2.65	2.12
£1-1,999	1.10	1.10	0.85	0.85	0.68
<b>Schools Banking Account - paid quarterly</b>					
	4.11				
£1+	4.05	3.85	3.80	3.80	3.04
<b>Capital Reserve Account - paid quarterly</b>					
	7 day notice account				
£250,000+	4.89	4.80	4.63	4.55	3.64
£100,000-249,999	4.68	4.60	4.42	4.35	3.48
£50,000-99,999	4.42	4.35	4.16	4.10	3.28
£10,000-9,999	4.01	3.95	3.75	3.70	2.96
£1-1,999	3.49	3.45	3.24	3.20	2.56
<b>Business Interest Cheque Account* - paid quarterly</b>					
	2.63				
£250,000+	2.17	2.15	1.91	1.90	1.52
£100,000-249,999	1.71	1.70	1.46	1.45	1.16
£50,000-99,999	1.36	1.35	1.00	1.00	0.80
£10,000-9,999	1.05	1.05	0.75	0.75	0.60
£1-1,999	0.80	0.80	0.50	0.50	0.40
<b>BICA for Charities* - paid quarterly</b>					
	2.63				
£1+	2.60	2.37	2.35	2.35	1.88
<b>Flexible Business Loan</b>					
	ANNUAL RATE %				
Standard		11.64			
Special		9.48			
Preferential		9.00			
Managed A		11.28			
Managed B		10.20			
Managed C		9.12			
Managed D		8.64			

TSB

\*AER stands for Annual Equivalent Rate and is the nominal rate which illustrates the gross or tax-free rate as it paid and compounded on an annual basis. As every advert for a savings product will compare its AER you will be able to compare more easily which products are best for you.  
\*\*GROSS - Gross rate is the earliest rate of interest payable before the deduction of income tax at the rate specified by law.  
\*NET - The rate of interest which could be payable after allowing for the deduction of income tax at the rate specified by law.  
\*\*NET - The rate of interest which is normally paid at the net rate, unless the Account falls within an exempt category or the Account holder qualifies to receive interest gross. These products are no longer open to new customers.  
\*For charities with turnover under £100,000 pa or for companies with turnover above £100,000 pa.  
TSB Bank plc, 71 London Street, London EC3 3BS.

0990 47 47 47 Extn 21  
VISIT: <a href="

52 week			52 week			52 week			52 week			52 week			
High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Ytd	PE	Code	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Ytd	PE	Code
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>															
804 385 Allied Breweries	597.5	0.0	42	22.1	1999	125	100	120	100	10	6 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
112 386 British Beer Co	515.0	0.0	22	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	16 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
112 387 British Beer Co	515.0	0.0	22	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	16 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
709 478 BrewDog	707.0	1.5	3.0	20.2	—	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
520 675 Glenturret	680.0	0.0	15	14	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 676 Gordon's	355.0	0.0	2.5	17	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
<b>BANKS</b>															
1372 477 Abbey Nat	1280.0	-10.0	3.1	20.2	20.2	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
174 525 Abbey Nat	1073.0	-30.0	2.2	20.2	20.2	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
1008 576 Alliance Lnt	1714.0	-16.0	3.2	18.5	22.2	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
125 577 Bank of Scotland	1255.0	-15.0	2.2	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
125 578 Lloyds Tsb	1262.0	-15.0	2.2	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
1008 645 Nat'l Bank of Scotland	762.0	5.5	1.5	20.2	20.2	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
521 677 Nat'l Nat'l	782.0	5.5	1.5	20.2	20.2	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
521 678 Nat'l Nat'l	782.0	5.5	1.5	20.2	20.2	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
521 679 Nat'l Nat'l	782.0	5.5	1.5	20.2	20.2	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
<b>BREWERY PUBS &amp; RESTAURANTS</b>															
1174 670 Bass	670.0	1.5	4.3	18.5	18.5	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 671 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 672 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 673 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 674 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 675 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 676 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 677 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 678 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 679 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 680 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 681 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 682 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 683 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 684 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 685 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 686 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 687 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 688 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 689 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 690 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 691 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 692 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 693 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 694 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 695 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 696 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 697 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 698 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 699 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 700 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 701 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 702 Greene King	515.0	0.0	1.5	16	12	221	175	175	175	175	17 Anglo-Petrol (P)	0.9	0.0006	—	
124 703 Greene King	515.0	0.0</td													

# Perverse bears get upper hand

## MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

WORRIES THAT shares had run ahead too quickly overwhelmed a rousing round of corporate activity, leaving Footsie 62 points off at 6,085.

Normally a deluge of bids and deals would send shares soaring. But the stock market seemed intent on displaying its more perverse instincts, allowing a stream of profit warnings and nervousness in New York to dominate its approach. So the bear argument won the day and profit takers got the upper hand.

British American Tobacco, following its descent on the once quoted Rothmans International cigarette group, fell 84p to 625p, and English China Clays, the minerals group, jumped 82p to 242.5p after rejecting a 225p a share cash offer from Imetal of France.

Enterprise Oil and Lasmo were more subdued as merger talks between the two groups were confirmed. In the weak oil environment the two are, in effect, cuddling together to keep warm. While Lasmo managed a modest 12.5p gain

MOVES ARE thought to be afoot to give a new lease of life to loss-making Versatile, with its system for painting on glass. The shares have cracked from 4p to 0.75p since arriving on the market two years ago.

There is talk that the glass business will be bailed off, possibly with father and son directors Les and Nick Easton buying it. The rump would be left as a cash-rich shell.

from near its year's low to 106.5p, Enterprise fell 5p to 278p, its lowest for more than five years. Whether the struggling oil groups will, after their hostile encounter four years ago, enjoy a cosy merger remains to be seen. Some expect ENI, the Italian group, to intervene.

The BAT deal puffed Imperial Tobacco 7p higher to 640p but left Gallagher down 3p at 405.5p.

A clutch of under-card shares joined the take over party. Field, the packaging group, rose 55p to 281.50 after reporting a bid approach; Sinclair Matrose Healthcare talked about a "number of approaches" and rose 23p to 136.5p; and Copyright, the merchandising group, gained 20p to 127.5p after agreeing a 130p a share offer.

Regal Hotels was unchanged at 81p on its £12.5m acquisition of County Hotels and Marston Thompson & Evershed slipped 5p to 297.5p

as Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, not surprisingly, rejected its PacMan attack.

Rumours also abounded. Cordiant, the advertising group, denied bid speculation, but the shares romped ahead 23p to 146p; Sears, on talk of a cash hand out as part of its defence against high street entrepreneur Philip Green, strengthened 34p to 289p.

On-Line jumped 13p to 29.5p although it said it could not account for the rise, and Brent International, the chemical group where talks are on, hardened 10.5p to 110p on rumours that a 140p a share bid had been agreed.

First Leisure shot ahead 30.5p to 229p as stories swirled that its bid action was about to erupt. But Vickers, the engineer, failed to respond to weekend reports that its tank division would merge with Giat, the state-owned French

shares.

The price rose 43p to 210p. The company, formed last summer, is valued at almost £13m. But it is a thin market with directors accounting for 60 per cent of the capital and a single shareholder with 25 per cent.

EASYSCREEN, which provides dealing systems for futures and options traders, arrived with a splash on the fringe, lightly-regulated Ofex share market.

The price rose 43p to 210p. The company, formed last summer, is valued at almost £13m. But it is a thin market with directors accounting for 60 per cent of the capital and a single shareholder with 25 per cent.

Tomkins' diversified industrial group, yesterday issued a cautionary profits warning for the six months to the end of October, which more than offset increases in sales, profits and dividends.

Sales rose 6 per cent and profits were up 2 per cent to £220.1m before deducting an exceptional charge of £40m. The interim dividend has been increased from 3.5p to 4p, but the profits were slightly below most City forecasts. The shares, which touched 378p last March, shed 3p to 228.5p.

Greg Hutchings, Tomkins' executive chairman, is confident that the company's inherent strengths will deliver a satisfactory result for the full year. But trading operations have become more challenging since the year end, and market conditions allow few opportunities for price increases.

The industrial and automotive division is suffering from falling demand, and growth in the current year to the end of

April is unlikely to match the previous year, when profits grew by 15 per cent.

Food manufacturing, which is strongest in the UK and France, continues to expand and sales of frozen bakery products to McDonalds, Marks & Spencer and Pizza Hut have doubled in the last two years. Demand for construction components, which sell primarily in the US, remains steady. Orders for components from US car

makers are up 10 per cent since last year.

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## SPORT

OFT investigation: Premier League insists that clubs must make television deals together – or the game will suffer

# Consumer heaven or football hell?

## THE CASE

BY NICK HARRIS

IF THE Premier League loses its landmark court case against the Office of Fair Trading, which starts in London this morning and will last for up to four months, football will change forever. The case will essentially concentrate on whether football clubs should make television deals individually or be allowed to continue to negotiate collectively, as they do now, under the umbrella of the League.

Depending on whose picture of the future you believe – and both will be presented to a judge who will decide the case – an OFT win could either see the game changing heading towards chaos, confusion and ultimately ruin, or entering a new age of consumer heaven where everyone's footballing appetites will be well-catered for at an affordable price.

By implication or direct argument the League will present a grim image of the country's richest clubs being forced by law to make individual television agreements against their will. The logical extension of this, it will imply, will be fixture disruption, sport dominated by broadcasters not sportsmen, and an ever-growing gulf between the big clubs and the small. A few years down the line, the League will imply, a small elite will dominate football and the remainder will be left to rot.

Mike Lee, a League spokesman, said yesterday that these outcomes were all possibilities but the core issue is that the OFT is seeking to end collective bargaining – where-

*The country's richest clubs might be forced by law to make individual television agreements against their will*

by the League sells television rights on behalf of its 20 members for the good of the League as a whole. – without heeding the implications.

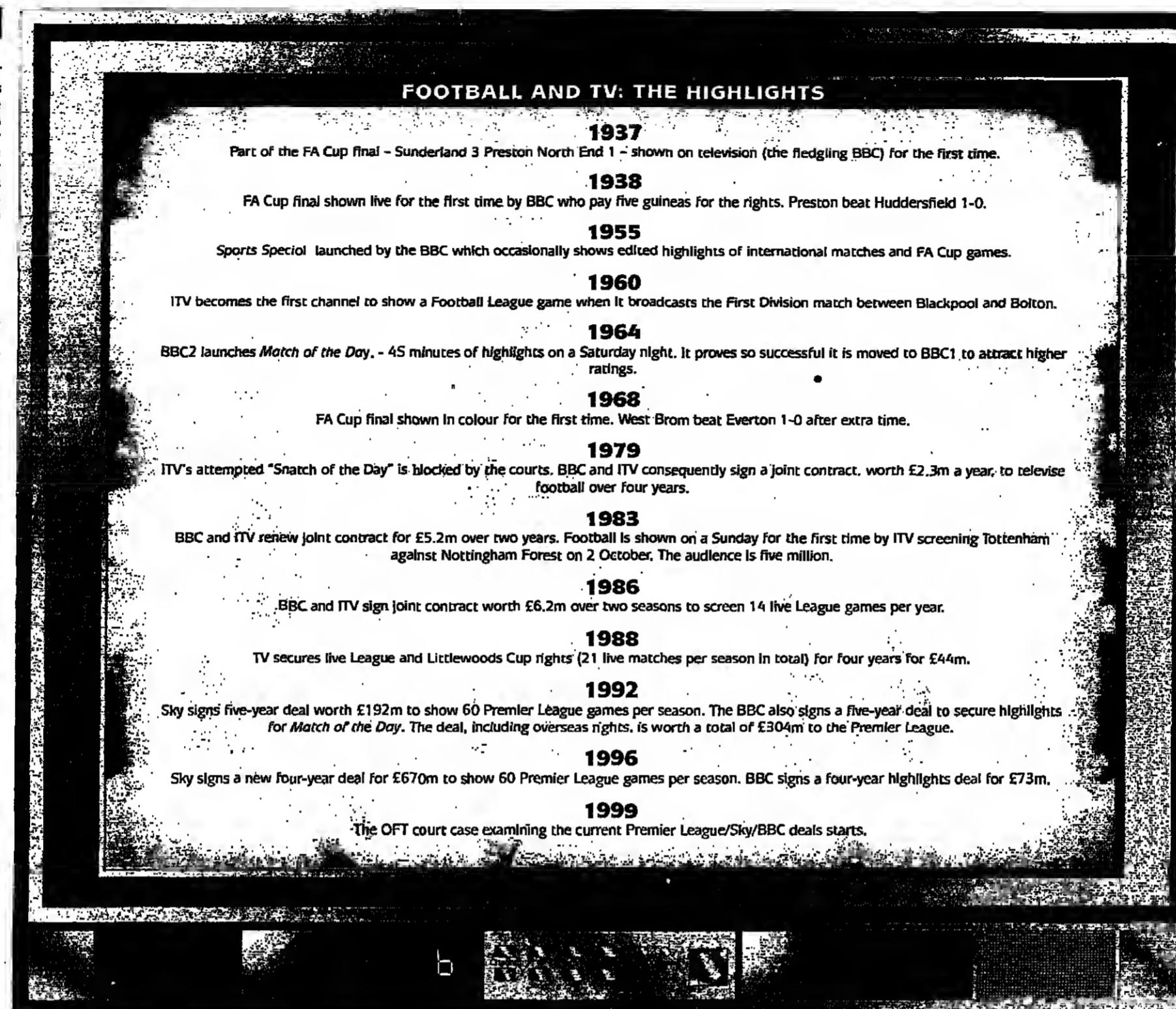
"That's why this case is so fundamental," Lee said. "Collective bargaining is the product of a democratic agreement," he added, explaining that rights are sold collectively because it is precisely what the clubs themselves want. "The Premier League rule that provides for collective licensing is being challenged."

There is no doubt football's importance to the broadcasters – Sky's initial expansion was driven by its football coverage while *Match of the Day* remains a BBC staple – and vice versa – through the huge funds football acquires from rights. Yet Mike Lee maintains that the League – not television – should remain the game's driving force.

"Only the governing body looking at all aspects of the game [primarily fixtures and the needs of both clubs and fans], working with all the clubs, is in the best position to oversee television deals," he added.

The OFT will argue that this is not the case and will say the public is being short-changed as a result of the way that television deals for Premier League matches are currently done. It will argue that the public does not have access to a wide enough range of Premier League football on television because the League – along with Sky TV and the BBC, the League's two allies in the case – is acting against the public interest by selling and buying rights on a collective basis.

It will argue that in an information age at the dawn of the digital revolution and in an era of widespread use of new technologies such as the Internet, there is plenty of scope to offer football supporters more choice over how to



## THE PLAYERS

## THE OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING

The OFT's role is to ensure that businesses act in the public interest and that consumers' choice of goods and services is safeguarded. It has monitored the Premier League's television contracts with Sky and the BBC since the first deal was struck in 1992 and now feels the consumer is suffering. The OFT will argue that in joining together to sell their TV rights collectively, the 20 Premier League clubs form a cartel – limiting choice and inflating prices for the consumer. This would not be acceptable in other industries. It will argue that there should be more sellers in the market: that each club should be free to negotiate individual television deals with broadcasters. The OFT will also say the current cartel limits the amount of football shown on television and, although 60 Premier League games are televised each year, the other 320 are not and there is an unsatisfied demand for football. The OFT will argue that the current deals prohibit regional football programmes and prohibit clubs from screening their own matches for their fans. The OFT is also likely to argue that Sky TV is too dominant in the sports' rights market and other broadcasters' lack of access to football is not good for consumer choice.

## THE PREMIER LEAGUE

The Premier League will argue that football cannot be treated in the same way as other products, such as cement, for instance, and that individual clubs cannot be treated as different brands. It will argue that the Premier League as a whole is the brand and that the 20 members should be able to continue to negotiate collectively. The League's case is likely to be argued using a range of doomsday scenarios, outlining what would happen if its members are given the right to negotiate individual television deals. The conclusion will be a few clubs creaming off most of the television money and a widening of wealth gap. Should that happen, there is the danger of an eight or 10-team breakaway that will damage football as a whole. Also, there would be fixture chaos if a large number of broadcasters were involved in trying to arrange matches and that mini-cartels, led by television rather than football interests, will be established. Further, investment trickling from the top level of the game down will dry up as the business interests of clubs – driven by broadcasting revenue – are pursued. The League will say such divisions will fatally undermine the competitive nature of the game.

## THE BROADCASTERS

Sky TV and the BBC are the Premier League's co-defendants in the case and will follow the same basic arguments as the League. They will point out how the fortunes of the game have been transformed over the period of their joint deals with the League. Although the onus will be on all three defendants to prove why the current situation does not harm consumer interests, the broadcasters are likely to take a back seat. In court, both will be supportive of the League's case and will argue for maintaining the status quo. Privately, their opinions might differ, however.

The BBC will support the League (its football portfolio might be at risk otherwise) whereas Sky would not necessarily be unhappy with an OFT victory. While that would increase the chance of other broadcasters claiming the jewel in its crown, Sky would remain – with experience and contacts throughout the Premiership – well placed to secure deals with individual clubs. Its position could also be viewed as ambivalent owing to Sky's current bid for Manchester United. Should that deal, after an investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, go through, Sky would own the largest club in the world and want to exploit its television rights.

## When sharing the spoils works for common good

## COMMENT

BY GLENN MOORE  
Football Correspondent

trying to wipe out their rivals, NFL clubs and the American government recognise that sport is different without competition it cannot exist.

As today's court case between the Office of Fair Trading and the Premier League illustrates, this logic has not made much of an impact in Europe, with the result that only a handful of teams start the season with a realistic chance of winning their respective titles. But, while the Premier League allows clubs to keep their own merchandise and gate income, and largely ignores the impoverished Nationwide League clubs, it does at least ensure some division of the spoils by collectively negotiating television income. This has enabled clubs like Derby and Leicester to establish themselves in the Premiership, and challenge for the minor honours and places in Europe. Should the OFT win this case, such ambitions will be in jeopardy.

This is because the NFL, the national sport of the world's most capitalist country, is a socialist organisation. Virtually all income, from the sale of media rights and merchandise to gate receipts, is shared 30 ways. This, plus the draft and the salary cap – which spreads the available talent across the NFL – means every team has a chance every year, as this year's surge to the "semi-finals" by the once-hapless New York Jets underlines.

Whereas most US companies are

ever the result of this case. The likes of Manchester United, Arsenal and Liverpool are already dominant and this will merely increase their power. BSkyB cannot lose either: if the Premier League wins, the satellite company will retain a monopoly on live coverage (and probably the lion's share of any future deal); if the OFT wins, BSkyB can concentrate on screening Manchester United, assuming their takeover goes through.

Everyone else, especially the bulk of supporters, will lose. They may be able to watch their clubs more often but, unless they support one of the giants, there will be less reason to do so. It would also lead to an acceleration in the development of the pay-per-view TV and a European league.

If the government is serious about keeping the "people's game" for the people, it should introduce legislation enshrining the clubs' right to negotiate collectively instead of allowing the OFT to challenge it. In return, the game should be forced to surrender 20 per cent of that income for grass-roots development.

Just as the best teams work together for the common good, so should the game.

## TV free-for-all could lead to a breakaway

## THE FUTURE

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

COMPARED TO Rupert Murdoch's controversial takeover of Manchester United, the Office of Fair Trading's case against the Premier League has received almost no attention. That is surprising, because the landmark court case has much wider implications for the future of the multi-million pound industry that is British football.

Indeed, Sky would have never felt the need to spend £623m of its shareholders' money on Manchester United if it was not worried that the case could end its stranglehold on the rights to screen top football matches – a major reason for its phenomenal success over the past six years.

If the OFT wins its case, however, Manchester United will only be the first club to end up in the hands of large corporate owners – provided the Monopolies and Mergers

Commission clears the deal. NTL, the US cable television operator, has already secured an option to buy Newcastle United. And media giants such as Carlton, Time Warner and United News & Media are all poised to pounce.

This rush of corporate interest is down to broadcasting rights. If the OFT wins, each Premier League club will be free to negotiate its own television deal. And buying the club is the best way for broadcasters to make sure the rights are tied up for good.

According to the OFT's opponents – of which Sky, incidentally, is one – this free-for-all will open up a huge wealth gap. The largest

clubs will tie up all the juiciest deals, helped by the introduction of pay-per-view technology, while smaller clubs will struggle to find anyone interested in their rights.

The results could be disastrous. Contrary to popular belief, the country's 20 largest clubs are collectively not a rich bunch. According to Deloitte & Touche, the accountancy firm, the Premier League clubs reported a combined £9.5m loss in the 1996-97 season. Some smaller clubs are already struggling to cope with players' soaring wage demands. With the loss of a few million pounds a year of guaranteed income from Sky, so the argument goes, some clubs could be facing financial ruin.

However, the argument is not that simple. Mark Oliver, a partner at Oliver & Olbaum Associates, a media consultancy, points out that

small clubs will control the rights to show all their home matches – including the ones with the large clubs. "This gives the small clubs some leverage because they can trade rights to their away games in return for the rights to home games," he says.

Geoffrey Hamilton-Fairley, the executive behind the Newcastle takeover and an OFT witness in the case, points out that Sky's monopoly on Premier League rights has prompted it to drive up prices rather than make the matches available to the largest audience.

"Only 18 per cent of the population take Sky Sports. But we know the appetite for football on television is much greater," he argues. "There is no reason why any Premier League club won't make as much money – if not more – in the event of an OFT victory." Other

media companies – keen to break open Sky's monopoly – support that view.

This argument assumes, however, that the league does not disintegrate. So far, the evidence is unclear. In Italy, where football clubs recently won the freedom to negotiate their own rights, the larger clubs are threatening to exclude some clubs by reducing the size of the league.

This lends some credence to the view, expressed by a number of Premier League officials, that an OFT victory would swiftly lead to the ten largest clubs forming a breakaway league in order to make sure they captured the largest possible share of the television revenues on offer.

To be fair, an OFT victory would not be the final word on the matter. The Premier League has

already indicated that it would be likely to mount an appeal. And if that failed, it could make a direct plea to the government to pass legislation giving sport an exemption from normal competition rules.

This is the situation in the United States, where sports bodies have been granted immunity from anti-trust laws provided they make some games available on normal television.

And, in the end, this is what the case is all about. Should football, which is now a multi-billion pound business, organise itself according to the accepted rules of business? Or is the link between football clubs and their fans so fundamentally different from a normal relationship between a company and its customers as to warrant a unique approach? The argument has only just begun.

# Collier may go mining for Gold

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON

WHETHER YOU are a human being or a horse these days, it's bad to be old and experienced. The action at the last Cheltenham Festival before the millennium seems sure to imitate the battle of the generations on the other side of the rail if yesterday's declarations are anything to go by. And the young and callow look to it.

A total of 46 entries were made for the Gold Cup and, of the first six in William Hill's betting, only Dorans Pride has run in the Blue Riband before, Ireland's gangling youth, Florida Pearl, is in there, along with a novice from his homeland, Edward O'Grady's Nick Dundee.

There is also a place for Jenny Pitman's Princeful, who will not jump a fence in public until Thursday, and, perhaps most surprising of all, the name

**RICHARD EDMONDSON**  
Nap: Kings Arrow  
(Lingfield 3.30)  
NB: Remember Equine  
(Newcastle 3.40)

of Collier Bay is among the mass. If Jim Old's gelding should succeed he would become the first horse to accomplish the Champion Hurdle and Gold Cup double since Dawn Run. The mare, it must be said, is unlikely to have to share her distinction on the evidence before us thus far.

Collier Bay has won just one of his three novice chases this season, and that in the seething cauldron of Newton Abbot. He stands under a bookmaking heading of 100-1 bar. This, of course, is of minor interest to his trainer, who continues to believe his horse can make an impact over the more formidable obstacles. "We are going to run him over further next time but I'm not sure where yet," Old said yesterday. "If we were to put up some sparkling performance over three miles we

might be asking ourselves why he wasn't in the Gold Cup.

"And despite what the experts think, we consider that he jumps his fences beautifully. Mr [Wally] Sturt [the owner] is not short of a bob or two so we can make the entry. There's the Cathcart, and the Sun Alliance is an option, but I would prefer the Gold Cup, and he's too slow now for a Champion Hurdle."

The past winners Cool Dawn and Imperial Call are also included, but the Gold Cup, like life, is no friend of the formerly good. L'Escarot, in 1970 and 1971, is the last to win it twice.

Martin Pipe has yet to win it once and swamps the entries this time with nine considerations, including the ex-French Tipstaff, who has yet to compete within these shores. Paul Nicholls is next in the numbers game with four of which See More Business is team leader.

"See More Business will run in the Pillar Chase at Cheltenham but there are no plans for the other three," Nicholls said yesterday. "There is a long way to go until the Gold Cup."

A notable absentee is the Cornish gelding Coome Hill, who has performed recently as if he had just gorged himself on pasties. "He's running a bit of a temperature and I think he has a muscle problem in his shoulder; so we are trying to address that," Walter Dennis, the 10-year-old's trainer, said yesterday. "He's not unsound, but I think it troubles him when he's racing and that's why he's running below par. We will find a race for him, but not at the level of the Gold Cup and I wouldn't rule out the Grand National."

Cypho Malta and Imperial Call are also declared in the Queen Mother Champion Chase, for which 28 are put forward yesterday. That leaves Fitzgerald to pare himself down to 10st, a weight he has not achieved since he started to squat shovelling foam on his face.

Streaming home: Runners in yesterday's handicap chase at Fontwell won by Dancetillyoudrop negotiate the water jump

Robert Hallam

## Race-fixing probe includes Flat races

POLICE INVESTIGATIONS into allegations of race-fixing and doping now include two races on the Flat. The Flat Jockey Ray Cochrane has revealed he was questioned about racing in his sphere by detectives at Charing Cross police station after his arrest - along with the jump jockey Graham Bradley and the former jump trainer Charlie Brooks - last Friday.

"They asked me questions about a couple of races on the Flat which were run two or three years ago," he said. "I can't reveal which races and my solicitor has instructed me not to say anything more about the matter."

Cochrane, bailed until 10 March along with Bradley and Brooks, returned to action at Southwell yesterday. Reflecting further on his arrest in a dawn raid, he said: "It's a shock to be

woken by someone knocking at your door at 7am to arrest you. It was pretty horrendous really, although they were quite nice about it. It does your brain in. It sets things going in your head and you just can't relax."

Meanwhile, jockeys who break the whip rules in major races from 1 March could be hit with a lengthy ban. The offending rider will be referred to the Jockey Club's Disciplinary Committee rather than be suspended by the local stewards.

If the Disciplinary Committee also finds that the rules have been broken it will suspend the jockey for a minimum of 10 days. The races which will warrant an automatic referral to the Disciplinary Committee are all Group 1 and Grade 1 races. Flat races with a prize fund of

£140,000 or over and jump races with a prize fund of £20,000 or over. Christopher Spence, president of the Jockey Club, said: "There new measures demonstrate we remain committed to setting new standards aimed at safeguarding the welfare of the horse."

Today's card at Leicester has been lost to the weather and the meeting at Newcastle is subject to a 7.45am inspection. There is still frost and snow on the track.

## Get Real has serious chance in Chandler

### ANTE-POST UPDATE

BY IAN DAVIES

Norski Lad, who would not run at Cheltenham if the ground were fast, consolidated, rather than strengthened, his claims for the Triumph Hurdle when giving Blue Royal - who might have more scope - 4lb and a short-head beating at Sandown on Saturday. However, the real Triumph springer following events at the Esher course is Behrjan, who gave his older rival Hidebound a 16-length beating in the Grade One Tolworth Hurdle. He is now second favourite.

**TOTE GOLD TROPHY HANDICAP HURDLE** William Hill: 6-1 Tuthac, Welsh Sands, 10-1 Belvoir, 12-1 Blowing Wind, 16-1 others. Total: 6-1 Tuthac, 7-1 Welsh Sands, 12-1 Belvoir, 10-1 Blowing Wind, 16-1 others. (Cheltenham, Wednesday 17 March)

**QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION CHASE** William Hill: 7-2 Direct Route, 4-1 (with a run) Cypho Malta, 6-1 Ark Tom, Edmond Bleu, Hill Society, 10-1 Lake Kariba, Mandy Mantho, 14-1 Or Royal, 16-1 others. Total: 6-1 Ark Tom, 7-1 Lake Kariba, 10-1 Mandy Mantho, 16-1 others. (Cheltenham, Wednesday 17 March)

**RELENT**, out for the season, has exited the Champion Hurdle betting for which Istabraq remains the hot favourite.

**GET REAL**, despite being set to carry 5lb more than his true handicap mark, is the favourite for the Victor Chandler Handicap Chase at Ascot on Saturday.

The Nick Henderson-trained eight-year-old bolted in by 11 lengths from Cellibate in the Frogmore Handicap Chase over Saturday's course and distance in December and reopposes on just 1lb worse terms this weekend.

Ascot has entered the Champion Hurdle betting following his nine-length victory under 11st 6lb in the Ladbrooke Handicap Hurdle at Leopardstown on Saturday.

However, this year's Ladbrooke, following a hefty rise in the weights at the five-day stage,

lacked the class of recent renewals and Dermot Weld

Archive Footage's trainer, re

gards the County Handicap

Hurdle at the Cheltenham Fest

ival as a more viable target for his seven-year-old.

Relent, out for the season

has exited the Champion Hurdle betting for which Istabraq

remains the hot favourite.

### VICTOR CHANDLER HANDICAP CHASE (2m)

Home (weight) Conf Win Hill Ladbrooke Stanley Total

Get Real (A [Henderson/Relent]) 9-1 7-2 3-1 3-1 22-0

Hill Society (J McManus/Relent) 4-1 11-2 5-1 6-1 51

Mandy Mantho (J Gillett/Hills) 6-1 11-2 5-1 6-1 51

Edmond Bleu (M [P] Weld/Relent) 6-1 11-2 5-1 6-1 51

Monske Forte (A [M] O'Brien/Relent) 6-1 9-1 5-1 5-1 51

Cellibate (C [M] O'Brien/Relent) 10-1 7-2 6-1 7-1 71

Cellibate (P [H] Hodge/Relent) 5-1 14-1 12-1 14-1 151

Connells Challenge (Easterly/Hills) 10-1 10-1 10-1 10-1 101

Flying Instructor (P [H] Hodge/Relent) 10-1 10-1 10-1 10-1 101

Or Royal (M [P] Weld/Relent) 10-1 10-1 10-1 10-1 101

Lord Durant (J [C] O'Brien/Relent) 20-1 20-1 5-1 5-1 205

Monkies Castle (A [M] O'Brien/Relent) 20-1 5-1 20-1 14-1 151

Minimum weight: 10st. Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3 (Ascot, Saturday)

### CHAMPION HURDLE (2m 110yds)

Home (weight) Conf Win Hill Ladbrooke Stanley Total

Relent (A [P] O'Brien/Hills) 11-10 even even even

Fresh Holly (M [P] Weld) 7-1 7-1 6-1 7-1 71

Welsh Sands (M [P] Weld) 10-1 10-1 10-1 10-1 101

Blowing Wind (M [P] Weld) 15-1 15-1 15-1 15-1 151

Grey Shot (J [C] O'Brien) 15-1 15-1 15-1 15-1 151

Fm Supp (P [H] Hodge) 10-1 10-1 10-1 10-1 101

Lord Durant (J [C] O'Brien) 10-1 10-1 10-1 10-1 101

Lady Colclough (N [P] Weld) 25-1 25-1 25-1 25-1 251

Pitchfork (M [P] Weld) 25-1 25-1 25-1 25-1 251

Archive Footage (D [W] Weld) 25-1 25-1 25-1 25-1 251

Minimum weight: 10st. Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3 (Cheltenham, Tuesday 17 March)

### TRIUMPH HURDLE (2m 110yds)

Home (weight) Conf Win Hill Ladbrooke Stanley Total

Kathleen (M [P] O'Brien/Hills) 12-1 12-1 12-1 12-1 121

Almond (P [H] Hodge) 10-1 10-1 10-1 10-1 101

Horn La Loi (P [H] Hodge) 10-1 10-1 10-1 10-1 101

Kathy Edge (M [P] Weld/Hills) 20-1 20-1 20-1 20-1 201

Blue Royal (N [H] Hodge) 20-1 20-1 20-1 20-1 201

Delphine President (C [P] O'Brien) 20-1 20-1 20-1 20-1 201

Goddess Rule (M [P] Weld/Hills) 20-1 20-1 20-1 20-1 201

World War II (M [P] Weld/Hills) 20-1 20-1 20-1 20-1 201

Star Paddington (P [H] Hodge) 20-1 20-1 20-1 20-1 201

Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3 (Cheltenham, Tuesday 17 March)

### CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP CHASE (3m 2110yds)

Home (weight) Conf Win Hill Ladbrooke Stanley Total

Hawthorn (A [P] O'Brien/Hills) 11-10 11-10 11-10 11-10 111

Winton (M [P] Weld/Hills) 11-10 11-10 11-10 11-10 111

Winton (M [P] Weld/Hills) 11-10 11-10 11-10 11-10 111

Winton (M [P] Weld/Hills) 11-10 11-10 11-10 11-10 111

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Winton (M [P] Weld/Hills) 11-10 11-10 11-10 11-10 111

Winton (M [P] Weld/Hills) 11-10 11-10 11-10 11-10 111

Winton (M [P] Weld/Hills) 11-10 11-

# ICC reveal plan to hunt match-fixers

## CRICKET

BY BRIAN MCKENNA

THE International Cricket Council has announced its determination to tackle some of the problems besetting international cricket by appointing a team of "sleaze-busters".

And, in another example of the ICC's new get-tough stance, world cricket's governing body has charged the Australian umpire Darrell Hair with bringing the game to disrepute following comments in his autobiography about the Sri Lankan spinner Muralitharan.

The ICC, which has abandoned plans for a Test world championship, set up a three-man panel to hunt match-fixers after admitting it has a "serious problem" in its hands during a meeting in Christchurch, New Zealand. The Australians are Warne and Muralitharan, while the third member of the panel is David Richards, ICC chief executive.

The nine Test-playing coun-

tries represented at an ICC executive board meeting unanimously approved the move, but Richards denied the Commission had won a power struggle with national boards. "We have been unfairly criticised in the past for being a toothless tiger," he said.

Meanwhile, Richards announced that Hair would have the chance to defend himself at an independent hearing to be convened by the Australian Cricket Board. Sri Lanka's return for information on weather and pitch conditions. Their punishment was only revealed recently.

The so-called Code of Conduct Committee, to be set up by 28 February, will order national cricket boards to dig out the truth. The ICC expects to receive full reports into betting inquiries in Pakistan, Australia and India by the end of May.

David Richards said: "If the ICC is not satisfied with the outcome of any review, the Commission would have the authority to carry out its own review and apply sentences. Any person found guilty of match-fixing can expect to be put out of the game for a very long period, if not altogether."

The nine Test-playing coun-

tries are barred from making comments detrimental to the game and Hair could face the same penalty as players, who can be suspended for three tests or six one-day matches if found guilty. Hair, no-balled Muralitharan seven times in the Boxing Day Test at Melbourne in 1995 and said in his book he could have hit him another 27 times. The Sri Lankan was later found not to have violated the throwing law.

Richards also revealed that complaints by some Test playing nations have scuppered a proposed world championship. "New Zealand, Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka felt they didn't get enough Test cricket," he said.

The ICC will instead study proposals to establish a new cycle of fixtures to ensure the small Test nations get a chance to face countries like Australia, England and West Indies.

With two days to go Ainslie still holds the lead in the Laser class after posting a first and a

third in the two races yesterday. Although his great rival, the 1996 Brazilian gold medallist Robert Scheidt, also had a win, Ainslie maintains a six-point advantage with the current world champion, Michael Brouwer of the Netherlands, and her second-placed compatriot, Margriet Matthijsse.

The win in the third race for

Iain Percy in the Finn Gold Cup pulled him up to fourth overall and a fifth in the second rubber of the day was enough to secure second place overall overnight,



French duo Julien Famarier (left) and Marc Audineau hit trouble during the 49ers World Championships in Melbourne yesterday **Allsport**

## Ainslie leads way as British impress

### BRITISH YACHTSMEN

and women were in top form on the world stage yesterday, notching up wins in four of the seven Olympic classes holding their World Championships here on Port Phillip Bay.

In blustery conditions that at times were skittling boats over, it was the trio of singlehandeders - Ben Ainslie in the Laser, Iain

### SAILING

BY STUART ALEXANDER  
in Melbourne

five points behind the 1996 Olympic gold medallist, Mateusz Kusznierewicz.

Opening with a pair of wins was a great boost for Robertson as she beat off strong opposition that, although missing the 1996 gold medallist, Denmark's Kristine Roug, included the current world champion, Carolijn Brouwer of the Netherlands, and her second-placed compatriot, Margriet Matthijsse.

In a 49er fleet split into four groups, the contest is a three-cornered affair between the Australians, British and Americans. However, these early stages are merely a preliminary to qualifying for the gold fleet later in the week.

An eighth for Andy Beardsworth in the Soling championship for fleet racing was enough to lift him to 15th after two races, eight places ahead of Lawrie Smith and his 1992 bronze medal-winning crew. The 16 nations go through to next week's Soling Match Racing World Championships, and it is likely Britain will nominate Beardsworth even if Smith were to beat him in the fleet racing.

The leading crew in the women's 470 class, Bethan Raggatt and Sarah Webb, are also struggling to hold off their UK riva-

lals, particularly the new pairing of Liz Walker and Sue Parkin.

As Sue Hay, Parkin partnered Debbie Jarvis in 1988 and as Sue Carr they again teamed up in 1992. She sailed with Raggatt in 1996 and since then the Derbyshire woman has married Barry Parkin, one of Beardsworth's crew, who were fourth for Britain in the Soling in 1996.

She would be keen for her husband to make the Soling slot again next year and just as enthusiastic, as Britain's best at 10th after six races, to make her own fourth appearance at the Olympic Games.

Results, Digest, page 23

## Barnett is in demand

Gloucestershire PLAN to keep an official approach to Ben Barnett's Kim Bart. Derbyshire have agreed to ease Barnett from the last years of his contract after the behind-the-scenes row. Colin Sexstone, the Gloucestershire chief executive, aims to tact John Smedley, the Derbyshire secretary, for permission to make Barnett an offer.

One problem for Gloucestershire is that Barnett is classified as a List One signing. Each county is allowed one signing per year and Gloucestershire's other winter recruit, Jeremy Snape, is also on List One.

But Sexstone said: "We are quite confident that the registration committee will move Jeremy to List Two when they next meet on 19 January."

Richards also revealed that complaints by some Test playing nations have scuppered a proposed world championship. "New Zealand, Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka felt they didn't get enough Test cricket," he said.

The ICC will instead study proposals to establish a new cycle of fixtures to ensure the small Test nations get a chance to face countries like Australia, England and West Indies.

## Jenman keeps his place

JENMAN remains at No 7 in the world rankings despite defeat by the German qualifier, Rainer Schutte, in the final of the Qatar Open in Doha, Sunday.

In the first official ATP list for 9, Jenman gained a further 12 ranking points to go to 12 and move to 137 behind Andre Agassi. Greg Rusedski, fate a disappointing first defeat to another German, Bernd Karchbauer, at 11, remains at ninth place in the world rankings.

Jenman is playing in an exhibition event in Melbourne this week in preparation for the Australian Open, which begins Monday. However, his com-

### TENNIS

patriot, Rusedski, will be seeking ranking points at the ATP event at Sydney, where Jenman reached the final last year. Rusedski is seeded No 5 in a strong field which includes six of the world top 10 players and will meet Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten, the former French Open champion, in the first round.

Petr Korda would be brave to defend his Australian Open title after the furor over his positive drugs test, according to the former Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek.

Korda tested positive for the steroid nandrolone last year only to escape a ban after

claiming he was unaware of what he had taken. But after a an outcry sparked partly by Krajicek, the International Tennis Federation plans to challenge its appeals committee for waiving a 12-month ban for class one drug offences.

A compulsory ATP Tour meeting in Melbourne on Saturday, with fines for those players who do not attend, will consider Korda's case.

"He's gutsy to come here. I would not have the need to prove myself so much, even if I felt I was not guilty I would try to just stay in a quiet place," Krajicek said after advancing to the second round of the Sydney event.

## Sheffield steeled for rival takeover offers

### THE PROPOSED TAKEOVER of Sheffield Steelers took another twist yesterday when it was revealed that the club are involved in negotiations with two potential new owners.

The World Indoor Soccer League pulled out of a possible buy-out late on Thursday after the Steelers' current owner, George Dodds, rejected the offer, but has it emerged the American organisation is still interested in buying the club.

However, it now faces competition for the Superleague franchise from an unnamed second party, with the contest hopefully resulting in an end to

### ICE HOCKEY

BY IAN PARKES

Sheffield's plight within the next two days.

The WISL has finalised details for an indoor football side to begin playing at the Sheffield Arena this summer and the acquisition of the Yorkshire club would bolster its position.

Having already offered around £400,000 to wipe out current debts and to help ensure Sheffield finish this season, Dodds is now believed to be reconsidering the increased bid.

### FORM VERDICT

BOBBY GRANT is probably the easiest option here despite worries about his jumping as he has the best form and is far stronger than his only real, top-class last time. Foremost men and their Cell partners watching for the future, but will have better chance in handicaps.

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### FORM VERDICT

Only time to consider here. Kiego Meesure looked a high class prospect over his last season and will have improved for his recent return, but his trainer has had a winner for some time and both Robbo and LORD PODGORSKI are favoured. Lord Podgorski is preferred as he has really well after over a year off last year and could well be sharper today.

However, it now faces competition for the Superleague

franchise from an unnamed second party, with the contest hopefully resulting in an end to

### FOUL WEATHER

continued to hamper the second day of training at the 1998 British Land National Championships, which start today in the French resort of Tignes. However, despite the appalling conditions which forced the cancellation of the second run, the sliders remained focused, with the surprise of the day coming from the 15-year-old Danielle Bosher.

Bosher, the youngest competitor at this year's Championships and in her first year in the women's British Land Junior Alpine Ski Team, finished a remarkable fourth overall. Her aggressive skiing on the first part of the course put her in third place at the mid-way point, but

forecast looking good for the remainder of the week, we look forward to an exciting four days of racing beginning tomorrow."

In the men's downhill - delayed by deteriorating weather conditions - Andrew Freshwater, the defending champion from Kincraig, slipped into second place to finish 0.06sec behind Justin Johnson of the United States, who set the fastest time of 1min 21.44sec.

France and the United States dominated the leading places, with the 20-year-old Johnny Moulder-Brown from London being the second-fastest member of the British team and joint 19th overall with a time of 1min 23.61sec.

### SKIING

Bosher could not match the strength of Amanda Pirie, the 18-year-old who beat her by 0.54sec with a time of 1min 28.13sec to take third place.

Pirie's sister, Tessa, the winner of the overall title in 1996 and winner of the downhill last year, showed her dominance of the field, setting the fastest time of 1min 21.23sec for the women's British Land Junior Alpine Ski Team, finished a remarkable fourth overall. Her aggressive skiing on the first part of the course put her in third place at the mid-way point, but

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### SKI

# Ravenhill result instils sweet hope in Irish hearts

THE MOST cheering news since England beat South Africa at Twickenham was that Ulster had beaten Stade Français at Ravenhill, Belfast, so securing a place in the final of the European Cup against Colomiers. The latter French team, by the way, do not come from a suburb of Paris, as the television commentators always say they do, but from a suburb of Toulouse.

The win in Belfast was, if anything, even more cheering than the win at Twickenham. It was equally unexpected but even more romantic. Nevertheless, my colleague Chris Hewett was right to point out yesterday that Saturday did not witness Ravenhill's finest hour or hour-and-a-half. That was in March, 1948, when Ireland defeated Wales 6-3 (two unconverted



ALAN  
WATKINS

tries from JC Daly and Barney Mulligan to one from Bledyn Williams) to win the first and, so far, the only Grand Slam in the country's history.

I did not see that match but saw

the equivalent game a year later at St Helen's, Swansea, a ground which, like Ravenhill, is sadly no longer in use for international fixtures. Ireland were not in contention for the Grand Slam this time. They had been beaten by France at Lansdowne Road in their first match of the Championship. But they had gone on to beat England and Scotland.

They were stronger than they had been in the previous season. George Norton had come in at full-back, and Mick Lane and Noel Henderson into the three-quarters. Their greatest strengths remained unimpaired: Jackie Kyle and Ernie Strathee at half-back, and a back row, perhaps Ireland's best ever (though there have been some good ones since), of Jim McKay, Des O'Brien and Jim McCarthy.

Ireland could still win the Triple Crown and that they proceeded to do, by a try from McCarthy converted by Norton to nothing from Wales, even though the latter included such notable performers as Ken Jones, Bledyn Williams, Jack Matthews, Billy Cleaver, Haydn Tanner, John Gwilliam, Ray Cale and Rees Stephens.

This was Wales' first season in white rather than navy blue shirts, but Ireland were still wearing club stockings. Since then they have won the Triple Crown twice, in 1982 and 1985, and the Championship on two further occasions, in 1961 and 1974 – both years in which Wales had, on paper, far the stronger side.

Will we see something of the same kind this year? One of the developments of this season has been

the way Irish players have reversed the journey of the old Celtic saints and returned across the Irish Sea: Jonathan Bell and Allen Clarke from Northampton, David Humphreys from London Irish and Simon Mason from Richmond, all of whom were in the Ulster team and who will, among others from the same team, be on the pencilled fist for a place in the national side.

Humphreys, in particular, may solve one of Ireland's problems: getting the back line moving after solid work from the forwards. Eric Elwood, invaluable place kicker though he is, has not always managed to do this. Humphreys is as skilled a kicker as Elwood, though it was Mason who successfully performed this task on Saturday.

Eric Miller, formerly of Leicester,

is another international who has returned to his native land and, whether coincidentally or not, recovered the form he had displayed before going to South Africa with the 1997 Lions.

In some ways it is a pity that London Irish have ceased to be a true exiled club. But then, so have the others. The idea of London Scottish being taken over by Bristol is a contradiction in terms, which does not prevent it from being discussed as a serious proposition.

Similarly London Irish have, under the management of Dick Best, been turned into London Southern Hemisphere and have been deservedly going up the table ever since. However, those Irish players who still retain their places, such as Conor O'Shea, Niall Woods

and Malcolm O'Kelly, can only become better players in such exalted company.

The European Cup final is to be played in Dublin. I have no doubt that the Lansdowne Road crowd will be cheering Ulster on instead of being taken over by Bristol is a contradiction in terms, which does not prevent it from being discussed as a serious proposition.

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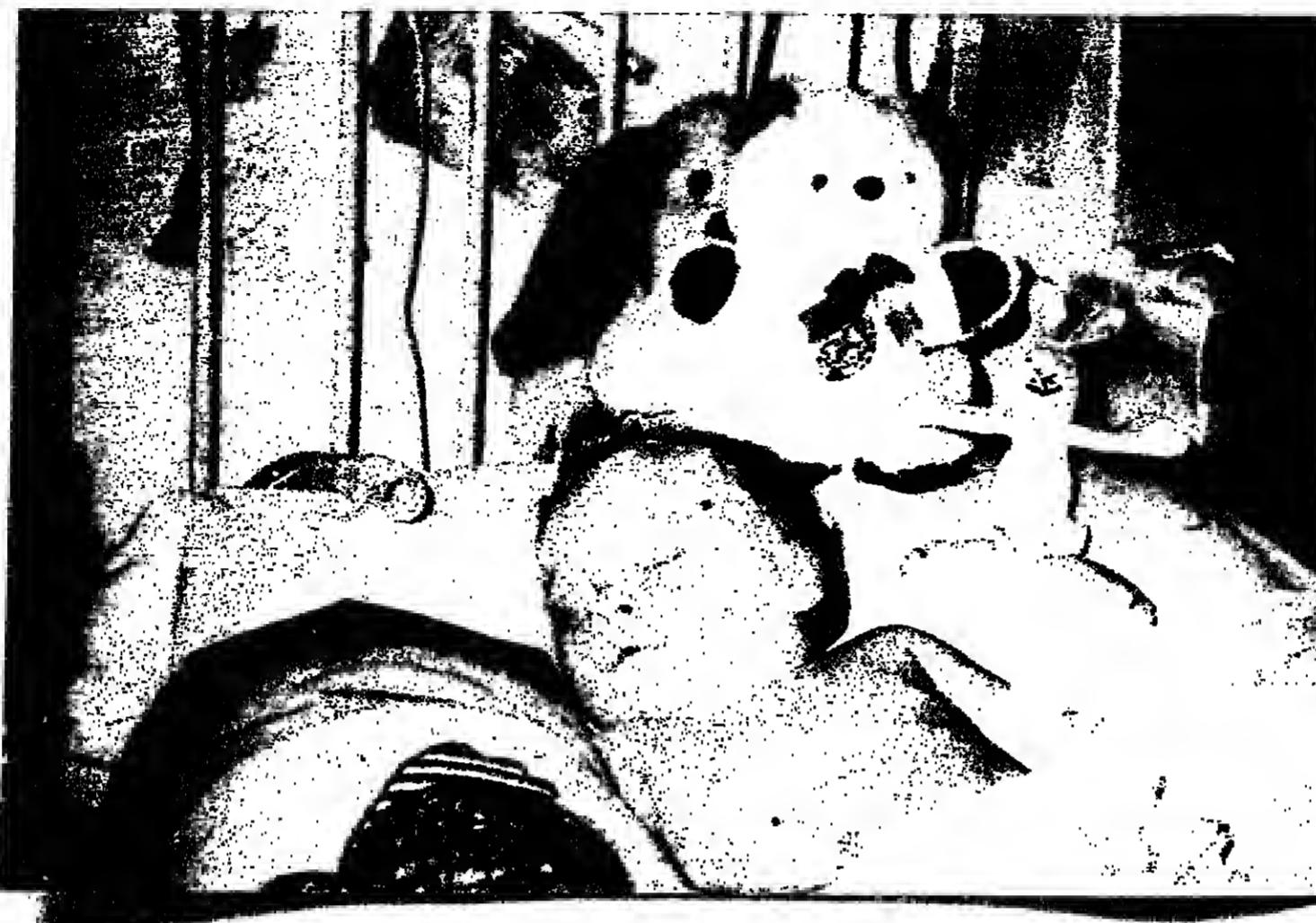
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## TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



This time last year my nine-month-old son, Patrick, was as close to death as it is possible to be...

BY FRANK KANE



Main picture: Patrick was on the brink of death while he fought off meningitis. He can now run around like other toddlers with the aid of his prosthetic leg, but life will never be the same for Frank, his wife Emma and daughter Rosie (middle) *Kalpesh Lathigra*

Patrick had fallen victim to a particularly vicious strain of meningococcal septicaemia, one of the diseases known collectively as meningitis. When I hear of outbreaks of this terrible illness - we are now in the middle of the meningitis "season" - a shudder goes through me, knowing somebody else is experiencing what I and my wife Emma went through last year.

There was hardly any warning in Patrick's case. He was unsettled one night - unusual for an infant who since birth had been a sound sleeper - but seemed fine the following morning when we left him with our nanny, Sandra. Maybe it is imagination embellished by hindsight, but when I try now to recall how he looked that morning, I see a look of dread in his eyes, as though he already knew something terrible was happening to his small body.

The meningococcal bacteria had probably been in his system for a few days by then, more than likely contracted over the Christmas period from any of the people who had kissed him or cuddled him. One of the most disturbing aspects of the illness is its randomness: millions of people carry the meningococcal germ with no effect. Doctors are still unsure as to why it affects the small number of people - around 2,000 - who succumb to it every year.

By the middle of the afternoon, Patrick was ill enough for Sandra to be worried. He was vomiting, floppy and drowsy, but there were none of the classic symptoms, such as red blotches on his torso. No "glass test" would have worked here.

Sandra brought him to our GP, who did not diagnose meningitis but said that he was sick enough to warrant immediate hospital attention. He advised Sandra to take him to St. Mary's Paddington, our nearest big hospital, just a mile from where we live in west London. This accident of geography saved his life.

As when trying to recollect the run-up of events to a serious road accident, I have only selective memory of the next few hours: a phone call from my wife, hurried departure from the office (remarking: "You always worry about meningitis, don't you?"), a car trip with Emma across London with panic levels rising. Then the blurred events at St. Mary's. Sandra crying, Patrick's body already being injected and hooked up to lines and drips, doctors and nurses rushing around in what looked like chaos.

The disease had already sent our baby's body into toxic shock, and all his vital organs - kidneys, liver, heart - were under attack. He was virtually unconscious, but occasionally would open his eyes for a few seconds, showing the same, literally dreadful expression I had seen that morning. That was the last time we saw his eyes open for three weeks.

For the next few days, Patrick was on the brink of death. We were not told so at the time - the medics would not have used such melodramatic language - but later we learnt that on eight occasions in the first three days, they feared they had lost him.

His baptism - originally set for St. Patrick's Day the coming spring - took place on the evening of the second day, with a crowd of sobbing relatives and friends squeezed between the blinking, sleeping screens and the metres of tubing surrounding his bed.

Our anchor during this time was Parviz Habibi, the senior consultant at St. Mary's, who has made a lifetime's work of trying to conquer meningitis. The fact that Patrick landed in Habibi's care so quickly meant that he would live through the initial onslaught of the disease. Habibi explained - with frankness when appropriate, but always with sensitivity - that although the bacteria had been killed by the huge doses of antibiotic our son had received, he was now entering the most critical phase of the illness.

As it does, the meningococcal germ releases deadly toxins, which have horrible side-effects. For Patrick the most noticeable was that his blood vessels began to leak fluid into his body tissues, with grotesque results. An infant who had previously weighed 9kg ballooned to four times that; his skin stretched and split; his testicles grew to the size of a grapefruit. The pain of seeing our boy son in this condition will never leave me.

There were also changes to his limbs. The disease weakens the heart and makes it less able to push blood around the body.

Patrick's fingers and toes went dark purple, then began to scab over in a hard, black covering. The consultants warned us that he might lose the tips of his fingers and toes.

And all the time there was the prospect of brain damage. With the massive haemorrhaging Patrick had experienced, it was possible that he would be left deaf, blind or mute, or in a vegetative state, if he survived. He was too sick to undergo a brain scan, so for the first three weeks we could only pray this was not so.

Emma had been a tower of strength throughout, promising Patrick's unconscious body early on that she would not go home until he could. (She kept the promise.) Her reaction to the horror was to try to master the medical argot and the sophisticated machinery keeping Patrick alive. But both she and I dissolved in tears as he was taken from intensive care to be scanned, knowing that in a few hours we might find we were parents of a baby boy who was both mentally and physically handicapped. When the scan results came through, showing no signs of significant brain damage, it was the first time we had smiled for three weeks.

After that, good news began to come more frequently. One evening in February, our five-year-old daughter Rosie paid her daily visit. She had been badly affected by the whole trauma. She had refused to go near Patrick's bed, believing she, too, would catch the germ, and later seemed reluctant to stay with him.

But this evening she obviously decided that it had gone far enough. She strode into intensive care with all her five-year-old determination and shouted - as she used to do at home to her baby brother - "wakey wakey, Patrick". Our son, who had shown no flicker of life for nearly a month apart from machine readings, slowly opened one eye in recognition of her voice.

Soon afterwards, the doctors decided that, though still unconscious, Patrick was well enough to be lifted from his bed. I shall never forget holding him in my arms for the first time in weeks. Despite the tubes and bandaging, it was as though he had just been delivered again and I was hugging my newborn son.

But there were awful times still to come. To cope with the terrible pain he had been experiencing, Patrick had been on high doses of morphine, and had become dependent. Now he had to come off the drug. It is terrible to watch helplessly as your blameless infant goes through the fevered spasms of "cold turkey", retching and crying.

Once morphine withdrawal had been established, Patrick, who was now much more awake, could be transferred from intensive care to a high-dependency ward, but this was the start of the most distressing stage of the whole illness.

We were resigned to the fact that he might lose finger tips and toes, but it became obvious that it was worse than that. The blackening had spread, so that now most of his left hand was affected, with withered black talons hanging where there had once been perfectly formed baby fingers. His right hand was better, with the blackening extending just below midway on each finger.

The real worry was his right foot, which was completely black and hard as shell. By some apparently random process, his left leg, which had been as bad as the right, had returned to normal.

The specialists told us that there was no alternative to amputation, and so began a series of increasingly harrowing operations. Emma and I knew that, each time he went to theatre, he would lose another piece of what just a few months before had been born a perfect human body. I cannot drive from my mind the image of him walking distraught in the post-op recovery room with another bandaged stump hanging from him.

Patrick came home in March, a few days before his first birthday, which became a celebration of his bravery and a thanksgiving for his return from the edge of death. He is now walking, with a prosthetic leg, and making good use of the limited digits he has on his right hand. Barring major advances in medicine, he will never be able to use his left as a normal hand.

He is behaving exactly like any normal toddler - loving and lovable, mischievous, exasperating and sleep-depriving. I have

no doubt that he will lead a full and happy life, especially as he was so young when it happened to him.

But meningitis has robbed us of the dreams we had for Patrick. He may have problems at school with friends, and later on with girls. He will never be a footballer, or a classical guitarist. We, and all the people who supported him when he was sick, will love him all the more for his courage in fighting the illness, and for the simple fact that he is still alive. But his life will not be easy.

There were times - when I saw him with other children - when I would inwardly curse God and the world and think: "Why him? Why us?" A post-traumatic stress counsellor told me that this was a normal reaction, but that I should take care it did not become excessive self-pity. So instead I curse the meningococcal bacteria, and will continue to do so every day of my life.

Frank Kane is news editor of 'Sunday Business'



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INSIDE

MEDIA

## Labour in a spin

Sir: You state: "Whatever one thinks of the unfortunate conduct of [Robin Cook's] private life, nothing in Mrs Cook's book should count against him in public office." (Leading article, 11 January.)

Public figures, especially politicians, have brainwashed the public to believe that behaviour in public life and in private life are not related. It is false. It is easier to deceive strangers than to cheat on your nearest and dearest. Elected public figures should tell the public about skeletons in their cupboards before the elections and let the public decide. Would you hire a liar and a cheat?

HUSSAIN RUSTAM  
New Malden, Surrey

Sir: Margaret Cook says that Robin sold his principles in favour of a career. Tony Blair says Robin is superb. Enough said?

JOHN NICHOLSON  
Manchester

Sir: The press complains incessantly about spin-doctoring. Quite rightly. Then how would you describe your front page article "Ditch Ashdown, ministers tell Blair" (9 January)?

I quote: "John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor and Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, are to join forces in an attempt to prevent Mr Blair calling a referendum on electoral reform before the next election."

I scoured the rest of the story for quotes from these three "heavy-hitters". Not a word. Andrew Grice quotes "a source close to Mr Brown". Later in the story Colin Brown in Cape Town quotes "one Blair aide".

Who are these invisible people who must not be named? Will their lives be in danger if their identities are revealed? Will it destroy their families? Lose them their library ticket? No, of course not. These incognito sources are the very spin doctors so reviled in your editorials.

Political editors and reporters seem to spend much of their lives whirled in a vortex of gossip, rumour and disinformation. Take a lesson from the outing of Mandelson and Whelan. Reveal your sources. Some of your readers might find it intriguing to evaluate the quality of your source material. Or is that none of our business?

MICHAEL KAYE  
London NW3

Sir: If, as the Prime Minister declares, doing a good job is what counts, why does he not recall Ron Davies to office? He did no harm to anyone, suffering only a momentary aberration, but had to give up a post which he filled superbly well. Fair play, please, Mr Blair.

A P LONG  
Brighton, East Sussex

## Roads to hell

Sir: Duff Hart-Davis's picture of rural roads as hellish deathtraps (Country Matters, 9 January) reflects the broader problem of our failure to control vehicle speeds in country and town. This puts vulnerable road users such as cyclists and child and elderly pedestrians in grave danger. The problem is three-fold.

First, the widespread attitude of car drivers and road engineers that being cocooned in two tonnes of metal gives drivers absolute rights to the road superior to vulnerable users.

Second, the failure to enforce speed limits, which means 60 per cent of drivers speed at some point on every trip. These speeding offences almost always mean driving at 40mph or more, the speed at which 90 per cent of pedestrians hit are killed.

Third, ludicrously low sentences for drivers who kill, compared to other countries. A recent analysis by our organisation showed average sentences of less than 12 months per pedestrian/cyclist death caused by driver error.

Professor MICHAEL CARLEY  
Chair, Edinburgh Pedestrian Action Group

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number. fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Signs of God No 2: Fr Kevin signs a mass at Port Talbot, south Wales. Signing ministers travel the country to serve deaf communicants

Tim Hetherington

## Jesus the rebel

Sir: The decision of the Church Advertising Network to represent Jesus as a Che Guevara-style revolutionary ("The reverend revolutionaries", 7 January) misses the point.

According to the Christian tradition the revolutionary nature of the Christ event lies not in what Jesus did but in who he was – truly God and truly human. It is because the Church and the theological establishment were so willing to cave in to the rationalistic onslaughts against orthodoxy Christology that we are in the embarrassing position of trying to sell Jesus as some sort of macho revolutionary to a generation which has long abandoned faith in political revolutionaries and indeed macho culture.

The fact that Chris Bayfield can describe contemporary images of Jesus as representing him as a "bit of a poof" exposes once again the Church's inability to deal with homosexuality, which just might be linked with its failure to reflect with any seriousness upon the virgin birth in which masculinity and indeed gender as a whole is fundamentally and revolutionarily reconfigured, with the birth of a male child from only female matter. Butchering up Jesus just undermines the mystery and revolutionary nature of the incarnation.

ELIZABETH STUART  
Professor of Christian Theology  
King Alfred's College  
Winchester

## No Year Zero

Sir: It is frequently but falsely claimed that Dionysius Exiguus failed to put a "year 0" between 1BC and AD1 because the concept of zero didn't exist in European mathematics at the time when he lived, in the sixth century of the era he invented (letter, 11 January).

In his system, the years *anno domini* (in the Year of the Lord)

were counted forwards from AD1, the year in which he calculated that Jesus was conceived and born. Subsequently the years *ante Christum* (Before Christ) were counted backwards from 1BC, the previous year. At no time was there any need or indeed room for a blank year in either direction. And later, when the zero was eventually introduced into Christendom, "AD0" would still have made no more sense than "0BC". What would be meant by "In the Year of the Lord nought", or "nought Before Christ"?

The same is true of all other eras counted from important events, such as the foundation of a city or the migration of a prophet. So the presence or absence of zero has nothing to do with the millennium. Anyway the idea that it will mark the 2000th anniversary of the birth of Jesus is absurd. Herod the Great died in 4BC; Dionysius Exiguus believed that Jesus was born in AD1; the Census of Judaea was held in AD6. So the second millennium should end not in neither 1999 or 2000, but in 1997 or 2001 or 2006.

The whole thing is in fact numerological nonsense – but this is as good an excuse for a holiday as anything else.

NICOLAS WALTER  
Rationalist Press Association  
London N1

## A choice of fluoride

Sir: Dr Jenny Duckworth (letter, 4 January) should understand that the UK water industry does not see its proposals as giving carte blanche to health authorities to go ahead with fluoridation as they see fit.

A key element in our call for a change in the law is full public consultation on any future schemes for the artificial fluoridation of water supplies. For too long the public has had to listen to the fluoridation debate between two powerful lobbies without taking an active part in it. We want that to change. So all we are doing is putting forward proposals which will allow the industry to fluoridate if that is what customers want. If they don't want it, then we won't do it.

PAMELA TAYLOR  
Water UK  
London SW1

Sir: Jenny Duckworth misconstrues the water industry's very sensible suggestions for resolving the legal impasse over water fluoridation.

At present, communities wanting fluoridation have been denied it because of confusion about who takes the final decision, and lack of clarity over water companies' legal responsibilities. There is no question of forcing

"nationwide fluoridation". No one is trying to fluoridate the whole country at a stroke – it is a question of local decision-making, following proper local consultation.

Water fluoridation is a safe, effective and cost-effective way of preventing tooth decay – a disease which is still far too common, especially among people living in socially deprived areas.

JOHN HUNT  
Chief Executive  
British Dental Association  
London W1

## Healthy scepticism

Sir: Jeremy Laurance (Health, 5 January) is perfectly entitled to bribe his children with his own money to desist from smoking.

What many find unacceptable is the intention by Government to use taxpayers' cash to wean the poorer smoker off the weed, which presumably he voluntarily pursued in the first place. The "generous bribe" to Shane Warne is being offered by the makers of nicotine replacement product, with commercial and advertising advantage being considered alongside the intention of this sporting personality to publicly end his habit.

On the day that a BBC national survey declares the majority of the population as overweight and under-fit, will Mr Laurance now

advocate bribes from the private or public sector to resist sweets, fatty foods or alcohol, and will tuck shorts and exercise bicycles now be available by prescription?

JOHN CARLISLE  
Executive Director of Public Affairs  
Tobacco Manufacturers' Association  
London SW1

## South Bank jewel

Sir: Complete demolition on the South Bank seems extreme; at least our wonderful Royal Festival Hall stays ("South Bank buildings to be razed and rebuilt", 9 December).

Is there not a middle way? The problem has always been the ill-considered space between those 1970s buildings, where the quality of the pedestrian deck ought to make up part of the sense of public enjoyment, of festivity. In particular the draughty, mean, formless, leftover gap between the back of Queen Elizabeth Hall and the Hayward Gallery entrance presents an architectural gaufre unworthy of London and of the precinct of Peter Moro and Sir Leslie Martin's masterpiece, the Royal Festival Hall.

If the Queen Elizabeth Hall were to stay – and its interior is judged by many to have excellent acoustic and architectural qualities – and if the unlovely Hayward Gallery and its unhappy forecourt were to be rebuilt elsewhere to the west of Hungerford Bridge, the opportunity opens up to redesign a common entrance forecourt between the new British Film Centre on the south, and the rear of Queen Elizabeth Hall to the north.

With minute care to pedestrian comfort and enjoyment this urban vestibule could become a little jewel – a court in the intimate London tradition – giving access to each building on either side.

ROBIN ROCKEL  
Hove, East Sussex

## Stiff upper lips

Sir: Your report "Trains in collision at London Bridge" (9 January) said "panic occurred" on "packed commuter trains" that were "plunged into darkness". This hardly describes the accident I experienced on Friday evening.

Commuters? Your report tells us the trains were not leaving London at 5.30pm but coming in, with passengers more likely aiming for entertainment than work. Packed? Again, you say 200 passengers and 16 carriages – isn't that nearer half empty? Darkness? Our carriage, at the point of collision, stayed lit for at least an hour. Panic? I wonder what life in *The Independent's* offices is like? If children and some adults screamed as the trains collided for several seconds, nobody thereafter jumped out of the train, ran about or did anything more startling than offer a mobile phone to a stranger or carry ice and glasses from the trolley, a stiff drink presumably stowed in the pockets. As one woman nearby observed, "Well, this is a conversation starter!"

JOHN KITCHER  
Rye, East Sussex

## Parents on the run

Sir: I believe that Jenny and Jeff Bramley, who have disappeared with their foster-children, have the support of a majority of the public ("Love on the run", 9 January).

Mrs Bramley is described as looking depressed and worn out. If you had been "on the run" for four months, with no fixed home and two lively children to care for wouldn't you look depressed and worn out?

Mr and Mrs Bramley may lack parenting skills, but these skills are not the preserve of natural parents, who also lack such skills at the beginning of a child's life. Such skills are developed over many years. What counts equally is the love demonstrated to a child by its parent(s), and in the case of Jenny and Jeff Bramley, that love should not be doubted.

MARK PENFOLD  
Crawley, West Sussex

## Cot death mysteries

Sir: The dramatic headlines which heralded the report of Professor Sir Roy Meadow which was published in the *Archives of Disease in Childhood* has highlighted a very small incidence of unnatural death in babies to the detriment of thousands of parents whose babies have died a cot death ("Some 'cot deaths' may be murders", 7 January). Professor Meadow found that during a period of 18 years 42 cases reported as cot death were unnatural. In that same period there was a total of nearly 25,000 cot deaths.

The Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths which funds research, information and support, will continue its work to find the cause of cot death and continue to offer support to the thousands of parents who, through the unfortunate use of headlines, will experience renewed grief, pain and anguish.

Rev RON ROBINSON  
Chairman  
The Foundation for the Study of Infant Death  
London SW1

## Wowsers on parade

Sir: I would question Nick Thomas's suggestion (letter, 6 January) that the word "wowsers" is really Cornish in origin, and would suggest that some of the migrants it mentions either returned, or passed the word to their relations in letters. I first heard the word from my father when he returned from his first visit to Australia in about 1959. As I remember, he was also quite clear as to the origin of the word: an acronym derived from a banner carried by a procession in an Australian city by the Temperance Society or a similar body, the message on the banner reading "We Only Want Social Evils Remedied".

CELSDEN  
Bracknell, Berkshire

## IN BRIEF

Sir: I take it K Haggett (letter, 11 January) believes in virgin birth. For a teenage girl to get pregnant requires a partner. To hide that fact from men and boys is also wrong.

BETSY THOMPSON  
Port Talbot, West Glamorgan

Sir: It is not Prince Edward's fault that he is the child of Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh. It is not his fault that three royal marriages have failed ahead of him. So give the lad a chance and have the decency to wish him well.

MICHAEL KAYE  
London NW3

that this one is visible from England is due purely to geometry and timing. Apart from causing congestion in Cornwall and a headache for the Eclipse Co-ordinator it will have no effect on anyone.

CHRISTOPHER ANTON  
Birmingham

Sir: Despite Helen Best being a post-Copernican astrologer (letter, 8 January), her views are still unfounded. Total eclipses happen on average every 18 months and the fact

And cast a general blight on all our party. Tony: You do him wrong. Old John is good at heart. But at his happiest when he is complaining. I love to see old Prescott's eyebrows quaking To presage some new storm that threatens

Not for him the joys of quiet home-making. But those of railing, roaring and fist-shaking! There comes a strange ringing sound.

Guard: My lord, you're wanted on the mobile phone.

Tony: Ask who it is. I am off duty now.

Guard: Earl Dobson, sire.

Tony: My chief of hospitals? What can my Lord of Dobson want on Christmas Day?

Guard: A bed, it seems.

Tony: A bed! He wants a bed?

Guard: It's not for him, but for the poor and sick.

A bug there is abroad in England nowadays.

Known as the Sydney flu, come from down under.

Which knocks out everyone who catches it

And puts them straight to bed. But Dobson says

There are not beds now. Or doctors either.

And all the nurses are ill paid as well.

Tony: Oh, what a bearded misery is he!

God save me from such walling willies!

Let me have men about me who are tough!

Queen: You had them once, like Mandelson

And Robinson, but not quite tough enough.

Tony: Is there no other way than these two ways.

Between the weeping way of bleeding hearts

And the hard-hearted path of real life?

Queen: You say there is. The Third Way, is it not?

I seem to recall that this has passed your lips

Occasionally, from time to time, sometimes...

Or every half hour in the last two years!

The third way has grown rancid in my ears!

Come on! Own up! There's really no such thing!

The Third Way is the fancy of a king!

Morosely, the King and Queen and bodyguards

head back for the hotel. Seconds later, Iraqi jets

strafe the beach, just too late. When peace returns,

Duke Ken of Livingston steps from behind a palm.

Livingstone: This life of Riley is all right for some.

But till I am Mayor of London, I'll keep dumb.

Meanwhile, remember this: the pest is yet to come!

## THE INDEPENDENT

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THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UKLet out some lifers  
and loosen the  
judicial strait-jacket

RETRIBUTION IS an enduringly popular justification for punishing those who break the law. This desire for revenge, stoked by the lurid "true crime" stories evident throughout much of the media, is natural and even healthy. Every society needs to feel that it is being protected, that the dangerous and violent cannot hurt other people with impunity.

This goes some way to explain the shocking revelation contained in yesterday's Prison Reform Trust report: that English and Welsh jails contain more prisoners serving life sentences than the rest of western Europe put together, without even having a particularly high rate of violent crime compared to other European countries. The problem is getting worse, as the number of prisoners serving mandatory life sentences for murder climbs inexorably. Three times more "lifers" enter the prison system every year than leave it; the numbers of such prisoners has risen by 40 per cent in the last decade.

They are also serving longer sentences: parole boards are more reluctant than in past decades to recommend release. Average time served on life sentences has risen from 11 to 14 years since 1987, and the numbers incarcerated may begin to rise even more rapidly given the introduction of discretionary life sentences for a second violent offence in 1997.

Governments should not punish just for the sake of it. There is protection to consider, too, since while the violent are locked away in prison, they cannot do more damage. Conditions during that time need to be productive, rather than depressing and destructive. Prison at its best ought to be able to reform and educate inmates, who are as often as not trapped in a cycle of poverty and violence in which crime is seen as the natural state of affairs.

These goals are put into jeopardy by overcrowding, and the poor conditions attendant on overloaded buildings and overworked staff. Inmates' best interests, which in the long run are also the best interests of the general public, are also imperilled.

The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, has shown that he is aware of this. He has argued that rehabilitation should be the main aim of a prison sentence, speaking of prisoners' self-esteem and the need for skills to get them into jobs. He has liberalised some of the more repressive Conservative measures, such as removing television sets from prisoners' cells. He has indicated that he will listen favourably to proposals for prison alternatives, such as community work, or "tagging" those who can serve out their sentences under supervision at home.

It is possible to imprison a much greater number of offenders, as the vast prison population in the US demonstrates; that may even serve to lower the number of



crimes, for a while. But it is much more likely that it is the economic boom in America which is causing the fall in crime rates. The evidence, contrary to what Michael Howard wanted us all to believe, is against prison.

The problem of "lifers" is more specific. It is rare for murderers, the majority of those serving life sentences, to reoffend, meaning that the Prison Reform Trust's demand – that the mandatory life sentence be lifted – can and must be met. Only then can judges take account of the mitigating, or particularly brutal, circumstances of each individual crime. The number of life prisoners is relatively small, at less than 10 per cent of the total, but a loosening of this judicial strait-jacket would be symbolic.

The prison service desperately needs such a gesture, as a sign to judges, magistrates and parole boards that the Government's view has changed since the crude Tory years of "prison works". Without it, more and more prisons will have to built, to less and less reward. No Labour government should countenance such a situation.

Football will win if  
we defeat this cartel

THE OFFICE of Fair Trading will go to court today to argue that top football clubs should be forced to end their television rights deal with BSkyB and the BBC. If they are successful in showing that the top clubs have acted as a cartel – that they have distorted the market and jacked up prices to suit themselves – football as a whole will be the winner.

Fears have been expressed that new plans to redistribute money from the Premiership to lower divisions and grassroots football would be put in danger by liberalising the television market. The Football Task Force, in its first report, argued that such a redistribution was imperative if the game were to survive the scandalous selling off of millions of acres of playing fields that has marred the last few years. If the £743m paid by the TV companies for the

right to Premiership football were to fall, then reinvestment could indeed be threatened.

But there is no inherent reason why this should be so. If the clubs were to sell their games individually, it could open up viewer choice and stimulate proper competition for the rights; it will probably bring in more money, to the benefit of all. Foothall's problem is not the amount of cash it generates in total but the fact that, since the Premiership broke away, the rights to that money have been concentrated at the top. There will be every opportunity, even if rights are sold to individual games, to put new structures in place to redistribute that income.

Opposition to change is based not on logical economics but on the conservatism that pervades English football, from the amateurism of the Football Association to the insistence on the merits of the physical "English game". The sooner real competition is allowed, with different companies free to experiment with their coverage and to attempt to outstrip their rivals, the better.

What's the point in serving up  
this rather tasteless Cook book?DAVID  
AARONOVITCH

*Mrs Cook should consider how she'd have felt if Robin had penned a savage attack on her various weirdnesses*

that I know about X I know because we had very close mutual friends (I should add here that X also knows many things about me, unfortunately no one is much interested). I spoke to one of these people, and she told me that what I might say could conceivably have a bad impact on her eldest daughter when it became public. So I said nothing.

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, you will recall, died because of Hamlet's quarrel with Claudius. In Margaret Cook's book someone called Carlos plays a similar role. A travel guide, Carlos was fingered by Mrs Cook as having had a post-Robin romance with her. Carlos, however, has denied that this ever happened.

And then there are the third parties (usually described as "innocent victims"). Someone writing a biography of a public figure whom I have known for some time recently approached me. Many of the things

is not supposed to fraternise with clients and would get into trouble from his company". Another Rosencrantz hits the dust.

By chance tonight Hanif Kureishi is coming to do a reading at our local branch of Waterstone's. The book is *Intimacy*, a barely fictionalised account of how he left his partner, and the mother of his children, a year or so back. The Kureishi character in the book describes his spouse as a middle-class social climber with bourgeois habits and an absence of self-knowledge. "She got herself into Cambridge," says the hero, "where she ensured that she knew the most luminous people. She is as deliberate in her friendships as in everything else."

There is worse: "In bed she reads cookbooks." The woman's very capability, her common-sensical ubiquity, is used as a weapon against her. It is classic misogyny, of a type. And it is also a true portrait of a certain sort of modern woman.

Over in the States Philip Roth's latest novel, *I Married a Communist*, was seen partly as a settling of scores with his ex-wife, Claire Bloom, whom he left after 18 years together; he had published an autobiography two years earlier entitled *Leaving a Doll's House*, in which she described how their relationship had fallen apart. Roth does not emerge well from Bloom's "true" story; nor is Bloom a noble character in Roth's fictional world.

Cannibalising real people who have placed their trust in you is not a new trick among novelists. One of the cruellest and funniest passages in Dickens is in *Little Dorrit*, when, after many years apart, Arthur Clennam meets his boyhood love, who once spurned him but is now both fat and silly. Since this meeting was closely based on a real event in Dickens's life, it is probable that the poor fat woman (and all her friends) got to exactly what the novelist thought about her.

Art alone cannot morally justify, say, Kureishi over Cook (although *Intimacy* is well worth revisiting, now that the initial fuss is over). The truth is that we cannot learn very much about how people are if everything is private. No one would talk to *Panorama* about parenting problems; the specific could no longer be used to illustrate the general.

We do not have to serve the cause of journalism or art if we do not want to, or if to do so would mean betraying our friends or family. However, the fact is that we would know and understand much less if everyone were so scrupulous.

Once again we are balancing the good that may arise from knowledge against the ill that flows from disclosure. And it's here that Margaret Cook so badly fails the test.

Nothing in what she tells us universalises her experience. The book attempts little more than to be therapeutic to its author who is – when all is said and done – a pretty lousy writer.

A sentence such as "At about that time Robin began to develop a problem, superficially stress-related, that made him less active in marital relations with me" belongs in an agony column – followed by the injunction to get out a bit more.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If she lived on a council estate in Sheffield she would probably be in council care."

Michael Portillo,  
chat show host, on the Queen

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"In nature there are no rewards or punishments; there are consequences."

H A Amory,  
British writer

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MEMBERS OF the Iraqi Parliament called for punishing neighbouring countries allowing use of their land in mounting US-British raids against Iraq. This only indicates how like the President and his regime those representatives are. Do they not all know that the country's borders on both north and south are violated? Do they not know that they cannot even threaten a fly? When will they ever learn? *Al Ahram, Egypt*

## MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD  
Middle Eastern comment on  
the rising tensions over Iraq

Kuwaiti nationals who have been in Iraqi prison since 1990. *Al-Ayyar, Kuwait*

AS VOICES rise in Iraq rejecting all Security Council reso-

lutions, the Arab nation has nothing but sympathy for the Iraqi people. Saddam Hussein still does not hesitate to adopt impulsive decisions, and to venture into bloody escapades in which the country's resources are wasted, and in which the country's very safety is endangered. There remains, however, a clear fact that as much as it needs a new leadership, Iraq needs also a new policy. *Al Gomhourya, Egypt*

DIKTATORSHIPS WILL always create their own wars, wars that so preoccupy the people that they may allow their rulers to go unpunished, for no voice rises higher than the sound of explosions in a war. The Iraqi president, Saddam Hussein and his clique thus create the circumstances to justify an attack against the Iraqi people. What they seek is more popularity, even by engaging the country into an unwarranted fight. Accordingly, the Americans, the British and the Saddam Hussein regime seem to have conspired against Iraq and the Iraqis! *Al Akhbar, Egypt*



## PANDORA

IS CHARLIE Whelan looking for a job in television? If so, he's certainly playing his cards right. Yesterday, Gordon Brown's former press spokesman described his own television viewing favourites for another newspaper: "The new BBC News 24 is very good. I've got Sky Sport, so I watch football. I do like soaps: *Coronation Street* is my favourite." Yes, that's the BBC, Sky and ITV all nicely plugged but, sadly, there's no mention of the Mirror Group's Live TV. Surely Charlie enjoys topless darts?

REMEMBER BACK in the Eighties when Julian Schnabel, not Damien Hirst, was the wonderkind of the ultra-cool contemporary art scene? Schnabel certainly does, which may be why the former New York waiter, who was first discovered by that mega-collector Charles Saatchi, seems less than pleased by our Damien's continuing success. In an interview with the rock-idol-turned-journalist David Bowie, in *Modern Painter* magazine, Schnabel says: "Damien Hirst owes a lot to a lot of people." More specifically: "I think he owes me plenty." It's difficult at first to see what Hirst's formaldehyde-drenched sharks owe to Schnabel's pictures, which were littered with smashed crockery. However, Pandora recalls that Saatchi started investing in Hirst's masterpieces not long after he decided to sell off many of his Schnabel paintings, so perhaps that's what the artist means by "owes me plenty". However, in another spasm of spite, Schnabel adds: "I can't be only responsible for the bad artists! I mean, I think he owes plenty to Jeff Koons too."

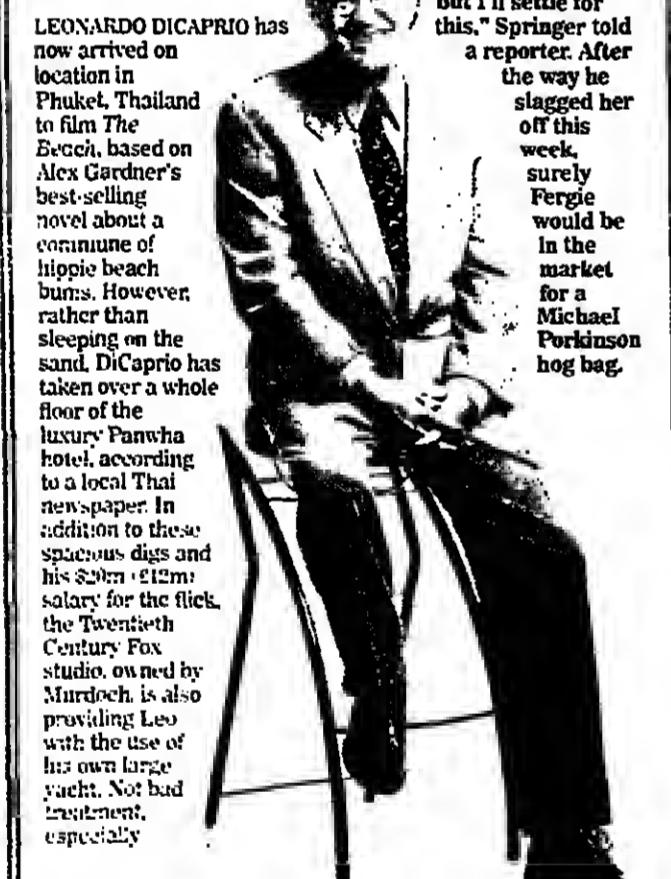
LEONARDO DICAPRIO has now arrived on location in Phuket, Thailand to film *The Beach*, based on Alex Gardner's best-selling novel about a commune of hippie beach bums. However, rather than sleeping on the sand, DiCaprio has taken over a whole floor of the luxury Pansha hotel, according to a local Thai newspaper. In addition to these spacious digs and his \$20m (£12m) salary for the flick, the Twentieth Century Fox studio, owned by Murdoch, is also providing Leo with the use of his own large yacht. Not bad treatment, especially

when compared with the accommodatio status of Rupert Murdoch himself, who, sources tell Pandora, is currently shopping for a loft in dreyer lower Manhattan.

MEANWHILE, THE non-Murdoch owned New York tabloid *Daily News* has set itself the task of keeping track of the romantic interests of Anna Murdoch, the billionaire's estranged wife. Having floated the names of the producer David Niven Jr and the property magnate Marshall Rose, the paper's latest candidate is a wealthy, 72-year-old New York widower, named William Mann, who would only say: "I'm not going to comment on that. Thank you very much."

HERE'S A collector's item: Pandora's readers are certain to covet! It's a solid, 24-carat gold CD of Frank Sinatra singing live in a suburban Chicago dive called the Villa Venice, in 1962, together with his rat pack mates Sammy Davis Jr and Dean Martin. Entitled *The Summit*, it is being released by a company owned by the Sinatra family called Artisan Entertainment Group. Guess what Artisan spells backwards?

YOU MAY have hated the talking Furby toys, but what about a toy talk-show host doll – especially one you can stick pins in? Yes, it's the "Jerry Stinger" humblebee Meanie toy, based on Jerry Springer, the trailer-trash culture hero (pictured), one of a series of new US products called "celebrity head bags". Other dolls in the series include the Moodona and the Quack Nicholson. "I was hoping for a Nobel Peace Prize, but I'll settle for this," Springer told a reporter. After the way he slagged her off this week, surely Fergie would be in the market for a Michael Parkinson hog bag.



## Coming out as a Mondeo man



TERENCE BLACKER

For the new aristocrats in the media this nice car, slightly lacking in poise, represents 'them out there'

ONE SHOULD, I suppose, become inured to the occasional sneering personal reference in the public prints. Having survived being described as a sexist snob on the letters page of this newspaper and being held responsible for a load of tosh on the books page of the *Times Educational Supplement*, I had come to believe that I could shrug off the resentful, small-minded, humourless, sub-literate carping of so-called "readers" and "critics". *Terence, mor!* I mean, honestly.

All the same, a news report last week did cause me the merest wince of irritation. "Bus lanes alone will not shift Mondeo man" read the headlines. According to Richard Knowles of Salford University, co-operation between bus companies and local authorities – an arrangement inevitably known as a "Quality Partnership" – had made little difference to the driving habits of the ordinary motorist, with the exception of those using the Super Route 66 in Ipswich, where even Mondeo men were said to be now using the local bus service.

As it happens, I have probably, while visiting my dentist or travel

ing to Ferry Cross the Whiteman, the excellent new production from the Eastern Angles Theatre Company, got my kick on Ipswich's Super Route 66 but, if I did, it was in my lovely Starburst-coloured Mondeo.

Owners of more socially acceptable cars – your BMW, your Saab, your dinky little Clio – may have been taking the environmentally responsible Park and Ride option

but, if so, I can't say I noticed. Of course, the point that the transport guru from Salford was making was essentially the same as that of the eminent feminist commentator Joan Smith who, in an essay on sexual desire, remarked, "Never trust a man in a Mondeo."

This nice, ordinary car, slightly lacking in poise but otherwise entirely harmless, suggests for all civilised commentators a hidebound, conventional type in a Cecil Ge suit, saying "Can I get back to you on that one, Keith?" into a mobile phone and steadfastly refusing to contribute to Quality Partnerships. The fact that my Mondeo – dents fore and aft, a box of undelivered apples and whisky football kit in the boot, a Willie Nelson cassette in the tape machine – may be as resolutely individual as any other car is beside the point. For the new aristocrats in the media, it's not our kind of car; it represents *them out there*.

It's not difficult to see why we Mondeo men are subject to patronising sneers. Whereas, during the Eighties, the Thatcherite mindset approved of the ducking-and-diving

entrepreneur for whom greed and enrichment was not only a personal imperative but a social responsibility, the new Establishment is the media itself: journalists, celebrity presenters and, above all, publicists.

The time has passed when public relations was regarded as a relatively humble skill, subsidiary to, and dependent upon, professions in which people really produced something. Suddenly, the messenger has become the message.

So when Charlie Whelan allegedly became involved in a bit of PR skulduggery, his subsequent resignation was treated with as much seriousness as the departure of a minister. Or when his boss the Chancellor is revealed to be dating a PR artiste, as is Prince Edward, she is regarded as the ideal consort in an age when the fact of publicity is regarded as more important than what is being publicised.

Because, in stark contrast to the times when there was a healthy divide between those who acted in the political arena and those who commented upon them, the media, the Government and even the Royal Family are now difficult to tell apart.

There is little surprise when previously spiky individuals such as Robert Harris and Peter Hennessy pen tearfully effusive public eulogies to their pals Mandelson and Whelan, because they are all part of the same new Establishment. Similarly, the Windsor family have managed at last to become media friendly through the simple expedient of becoming part of the media.

No wonder that journalists and publicists now behave with unprecedented arrogance, pronouncing loftily upon matters of morality, removing or promoting public figures at will.

Who could be surprised that satirists are unable to get a fix upon the new Government, turning out mild, predictable and grindingly unfunny versions of our new masters? They have found that, once they have laughed at John Prescott's accent and Cook's and Dobson's funny little beards, ministers are simply too similar to themselves to be funny.

Perhaps this is another area of Quality Partnership, but, for us Mondeo men on the outside, it looks creepy and slightly dangerous.

## Should Mr Blair really ask us to forget about the scandals?



ANDREW GRICE

There is a growing feeling that ministers are not delivering on promises to improve public services

AS MPS returned from their Christmas break yesterday, even those in different parties could agree on one thing: we are back to real politics. The Blair honeymoon, whose death has often been predicted in the past 20 months, is finally over.

But as Tony Blair tries to shrug off his "Black Christmas" by getting back to business, he is danger of jumping from one hole into another. His fight-back strategy is to turn the media spotlight away from personalities and back to policies. Gordon Brown, in the first of what Downing Street billed as a series of keynote speeches by Cabinet ministers, proclaimed that 1999 will be "the year of delivery".

Of course, Blair can be forgiven for thinking that anything is better than the media focusing on his landslip, reveals the Government's potential Achilles heel, even though it remains way ahead of the Tories in the race for the next election.

It shows that the gloss surrounding the announcement of £400m extra for health and education last summer has worn off. This has been replaced by people's own experiences; and they feel increasingly that the ministerial rhetoric is not measuring up to the problems in our hospitals and schools. It is no coincidence that, according to Labour's surveys, there has been a sharp increase since last July in the number of people who believe the Government is "getting too arrogant and out of touch" and "getting sleazy".

Perhaps the most chilling section of the Labour polling now in Mr Blair's in-tray is the one about how voters remember the Tories' time in office: the top five memories are "neglect of health and education"; "sleaze"; "out of touch"; "splits and divisions"; and "boom and bust". With the exception of "boom and bust", many voters may feel the four

other slogans apply to the present Government after the turmoil of the past three weeks. And as the economy worsens this year, even Labour's hard-won economic credentials may be in jeopardy.

The current crisis in the hospitals is potentially even more damaging. The voters are seeing the reality with their own eyes; one friend of mine was appalled to hear a hospital registrar, as he struggled to cope with patients waiting for treatment on trolleys, berating the Government's obsession with cutting waiting lists (a key election pledge), at the expense of short-term pressures such as the flu outbreak.

Of course, ministers will argue that the Labour polling shows their resolve to tackle what Tony Benn calls "the real ills", and hope they will at least get some credit for tackling the deep-seated problems in health and education. But the option of blaming the inheritance of the Tories is no longer viable. The public wants to see real evidence of sustained improvements to public services, not to have their expectations raised by ministers making promises they cannot keep.

Blair is almost certainly right that, in the long run, the voters will care much more about bread-and-butter issues than about Cook's private life. What worries him more is that, engraved on John Major's political tombstone – and in Blair's own mind – are the words: "Divided parties lose elections."

Since Labour won power, its internal divisions have not really registered with the voters – until the past three weeks. This is largely because they see Blair as a strong leader who keeps his party in check (in sharp contrast with Major in the run-up to the 1997 election). This is why Blair does not really mind being portrayed as a "control freak".

Although the label is causing real worries inside his party (which should not be underestimated), control freakery evidently plays pretty well with Middle England, where it is seen as strong leadership. Similarly, Mr Blair is billing this week's measures on welfare reform and tackling crime as "tough" and even "authoritarian". During his visit to South Africa, he was happy to tell journalists that he feared a backbench rebellion over social security changes, even though there is little immediate sign of one. Anything to get the media to write about policies rather than personalities. "What the hell could we focus on apart from public services and our reforms?" one exasperated Blairite asked me yesterday, admitting that the dangers signals of the NHS were deeply worrying.

Although Downing Street denies that this week's flurry of ministerial speeches amounts to a relaunch of the Government, that is effectively what Blair is doing (indeed, many of the "new policies" being unveiled have been launched before). As they are right to be worried. Blair argues that he could not be expected to put right the problems of the past 18 years in just 18 months. But the voters will soon want some hard evidence that things really are getting better.

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form factor. But some time

and the curriculum will be

designed to help the teacher in

a digital fashion

And the world of business is

still very paper-oriented.

I want to introduce a new

term, which is the Web work

style. This is the idea of a new

style of work that's utterly de-

# Corruption's bad for your wealth



HAMISH MCRAE

**The scale of fraud in Brussels has swept away complacency about the probity of EU officials**

WHY IS the European Commission so corrupt? There may be a mass sacking this week of the 20 Brussels commissioners, if the MEPs vote by a two-thirds majority on Thursday in favour of a no-confidence motion. Whether or not they do, the new attention on the scale of fraud and corruption in Brussels has suddenly swept away any complacency about the probity of the European Union's civil servants.

But why on earth should this have happened? Why should the ethical standards be so much lower in Brussels than they are, for example, in Whitehall? Anti-Europeans will declare that fraud is just an inevitable part of the whole European Union rip-off – that it is part of the European culture to cheat – but that sort of response does not really carry much credibility. There must be something structurally wrong, too, for Europe is, by global standards, a relatively uncorrupt continent.

I have just been looking at the latest figures compiled by Transparency International, the Berlin-based pressure group that seeks to identify corruption and tackle it. The interesting thing here is that most European Union countries come towards the top of the corruption league – or, more properly, the corruption perception league. Transparency measures how corrupt people feel their countries are, rather than calculating an absolute level of dishonesty. Denmark, Finland and Sweden are seen as relatively uncorrupt, with the Netherlands, the UK and Luxembourg not far behind. At the bottom of the EU league comes Italy, followed by Greece, Belgium, Spain and France.

But even the most determinedly corrupt members of the EU pale into insignificance beside some non-European nations. If you want corruption delivered in true industrial quantities, go to the bottom five in the league: Cameroon, Paraguay, Ecuador, Nigeria and Tanzania. In Cameroon they regard their place in pole position with a certain bravado: in a survey of 600 people in Yaoundé and Douala, no fewer than 77 per cent of the people questioned agreed that their country was the most corrupt in the world.



The central market in Yaoundé, the capital of Cameroon, perceived to be the world's most corrupt country

Rex Parry/Panos

I wonder what the hurghers of Brussels would say if asked a similar question about the commission. It is notable that a Spaniard and a French commissioner are under the darkest clouds, while the chief whistle-blower was a Dutchman.

However, since even the Finnish and Swedish commissioners are being criticised too, I don't think we can attribute a propensity to be perceived as corrupt to national characteristics, however tempting that may seem. Besides, it was an Italian MEP, Rinaldo Bonetti, who carried out the report on corruption which was adopted by the European Parliament last October. So perceived corruption in Europe cannot be attributed to individual nationalities. There must be something wrong with the system.

Just what that is, will gradually emerge over the next few months. Do not expect any simple, single structural failure to be revealed. Instead, what will probably come out will be a combination of detailed auditing failures and evidence that a culture of "other people's money" has been allowed to develop. I would be less concerned about the auditing failures than the cultural failure, for the former is much easier to correct. You just beef up the auditing system. The more deep-seated problem is that EU funds,

taken indirectly from a taxpayer in a country hundreds of miles away, do not need to be spent with the same care as national funds.

Step back a moment and consider the EU's financial probity not as an ethical or moral issue, but as an economic one. There is a tacit assumption among many people in the business community that a modest level of corruption does not really matter too much.

We had an extreme example in London a few years ago, with the Lloyd's insurance market, where corruption was so deep-rooted that the people involved did not even realise that they were doing anything wrong. More recently, some people have tended to ignore evidence of corruption among the up poorer as a result.

Now look at Europe. The European economy occupies part of the top portion of the world economy. Of course there are fine distinctions to be made between different countries, but, taken as a whole, Western European companies deliver high levels of quality in both their products and their services – similar to those of North America, Japan, Australia and the other parts of the developed world.

But we are in a world where it is hard for the commercial sector of any developed country, or any developed region, to maintain much of an advantage over another. Any good ideas are quickly copied and applied elsewhere. As a result, the one thing that countries will increasingly compete in is the quality, efficiency – and, crucially, honesty – of the public services.

So corruption in Europe, and, in particular, at its core in Brussels, will become a grave economic disadvantage, bobbling European countries in their competition with other parts of the developed world. Look at the table. Rich countries are honest; poor countries are corrupt. Corruption impoverishes, for it gets in the way of an efficient economy.

If the European Commission wastes hundreds of millions of euros, as its auditors believe, that is hitting the European economy

with a double whammy. First, those resources are not available for bettering the lives of European people – they could have gone into better pensions, or allowed a higher standard of living. Second, the waste encourages misallocation of resources, making the economy less responsive to people's needs and so less competitive.

I don't think European people realise how tough it will be to improve living standards over the next generation, given the adverse demographic headwind blowing across the developed world. We are going, in one generation, from four workers for every pensioner to a situation where there will be two. Productivity will continue to rise, but most of the gains will be absorbed in caring for the old. In a situation like that, corruption at the heart of the EU becomes an even less tolerable burden.

The structure of the European bureaucracy has developed in a world of plenty: relatively rapid economic growth, favourable demography, increased economies of scale. So a bit of corruption could be absorbed in the general increase in wealth. Those conditions cannot be relied on in the future. Leave aside the moral case on corruption: the economic imperative is for the commission to clean up its act.

## RIGHT OF REPLY

LIZ DAVIES



A member of Labour's National Executive responds to a recent article by Tony Blair

I DO not recognise the picture that Tony Blair draws of the Labour Party. Far from being "more ideologically united than at any time", Labour is divided over basic values.

The Prime Minister boasts of a record fall in NHS waiting lists, but the recent fall has only cut lists to the level they were at when Labour took over from the Tories. Frank Dobson has honestly acknowledged that the NHS is "in crisis". That crisis cannot be remedied unless the Government improves public sector pay and rewards our nurses, teachers and public servants as they deserve.

In contrast to the Government's miserly approach to public services is its embrace of big business. From Bernie Ecclestone to Geoffrey Robinson, from the Millennium Dome to the private finance initiative in hospitals and schools, the line between public interest and private profit is being dangerously blurred.

While the big corporations are mollycoddled with tax cuts and government appointments, the poor are offered "tough love". For Labour members, the party's *raison d'être* is to combat poverty and inequality. But the Government's welfare reform plans seem more about trying to reform the poor out of poverty than reforming our economic system to eliminate poverty.

Governments in France and Germany demonstrate there is an alternative. Fiscal and monetary conservatism are outdated shibboleths. The need of the hour is renewed intervention in the economy.

Finally, many party members are shocked by Britain's participation in the bombing of Iraq. The Government's policy of punishing the people of Iraq for the crimes of Saddam Hussein is illogical and cruel and has undermined our commitment to an ethical foreign policy.

# Of transgenic mice and men

## TUESDAY BOOK

**THE BALTIMORE CASE: A TRIAL OF SCIENCE, POLITICS AND CHARACTER**  
BY DANIEL J KEVLES, W W NORTON, £21

David Baltimore. The wunderkind of American biology, Baltimore (the son of a New York garment worker) won a Nobel Prize in 1975, aged 37, for demonstrating how retroviruses work. It is one of Kevles' many virtues that he patiently explains the distinction between such things as RNA (the basis of retroviruses) and DNA, the genetic material of ordinary viruses.

As George Eliot put it in describing her brilliant young scientist, Lydgate, Baltimore the laureate "had his 35

years ahead of him". The future glistened. His subject was hot, and so was he. His work on retroviruses connected with the huge research campaign launched in the early Eighties to find a remedy for Aids, and with the Human Genome Project: "the code of codes". With the collapse of SDI – "Star Wars" – and the Texas-based particle accelerator (both victims of the end of the Cold War), biology became the biggest of the big science.

Baltimore rose like a multi-stage rocket. He dropped his professorship at MIT to become director of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research. In 1989, he became president of Rockefeller University in New York. As the name suggests, this is not an institution lacking in financial resources. Aged only 50, Baltimore was at the top of science's slippery pole

What followed was a mixture of Sophocles and Kafka. It began with one of the little dishonesties of American academic life: "honorary" authorship. If a scientist publishes a paper, senior colleagues in the laboratory (who may have contributed little or nothing) routinely claim part-authorship. One of Baltimore's team, Thereza Imanishi-Kari, had conducted some fascinating research on transgenic mice in the mid-Eighties. The paper was published in the premier biology journal, *Cell*, with Baltimore cited as (passive) co-author.

A junior member of the team, Margaret O'Toole, found that she could not reproduce Imanishi-Kari's results. O'Toole was feisty; Imanishi-Kari stubborn and inarticulate (English is her



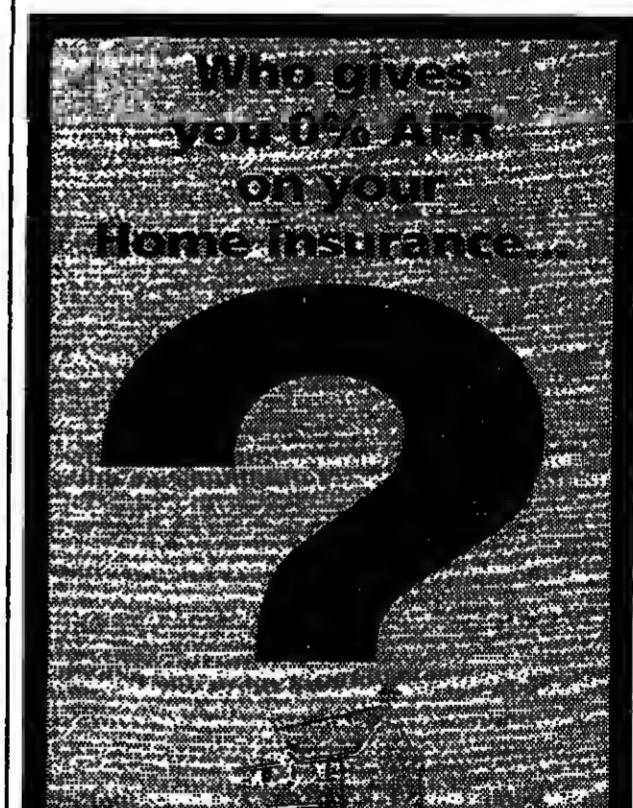
The Nobel laureate David Baltimore

"fifth language"). Baltimore did not suffer fools gladly. It could all have been worked out at the lab level, but it wasn't. What it came down to, as it often does in science, was ambiguous results started up a bit for publication. They all do it, and always have.

By 1989 the dispute was out of control. O'Toole lost her position at Rockefeller. The dreaded words "fraud" and "whistle-blower" were bruited. Huge sums of federal money have gone into American science, and Congress has become very suspicious. A subcommittee headed by a politician on the make was directed to investigate.

The press scented a story. Margaret O'Toole was an attractive martyr material. *The New York Times* ran a story headlined "For Challenging her Boss's Data, a Scientist lost her Job and Home" and an editorial entitled "A Scientific Watergate". Baltimore was forced to resign from his presidency in 1991. His views on public affairs were suddenly of no interest to the media and he was shut out of science policy-making circles. The wunderkind was a non-person.

The story has a moderately happy ending. In 1995, Imanishi-Kari was ex-



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## TUESDAY POEM

**DEPENDANTS**  
BY PAUL FARLEY

How good we are for each other, walking through  
a land of silence and darkness. You  
open doors for me, I answer the phone for you.

I play jungle loud. You read with the light on.  
Beautiful. The curve of your cheekbone,  
explosive vowels, exact use of cologne.

What are you thinking? I ask in a language of touch  
unique to us. You tap my palm *nothing much*.  
At stations we compete senses, see which

comes first – light in the tunnel, whiplash down the rail.  
I kick your shins when we go out for meals.  
You dab my lips. I finger yours like Braille.

Paul Farley's *The Boy from the Chemist is Here to See You* (Picador, £5.99) is shortlisted for the Whitbread Poetry Award, announced today at 10.20pm on BBC2

JOHN SUTHERLAND

The reviewer is professor of English at University College, London

# The Marquess of Bristol

"I HAVE a depressive illness," Lord Bristol said in 1989. "My father had manic depressions and my mother had them. I feel I am in a sort of grey, rainy late afternoon and nothing in the house has any features at all. There are no objects that are beautiful. Trouble is, I've gone too far down the road now. If you take coke for 10 years your metabolism alters. But it is very difficult to justify because to the public, cocaine is simply a Class A drug and bad."

The Marquess of Bristol had been dying in public for many years. At first his audience was amused – they gathered in Deauville for grand house parties held at his expense; they shot grouse at Ickworth, his stately home in Suffolk; they rode around New York in his chauffeur-driven car; a dark brown Mercedes Pullman that had once belonged to Rod Stewart. They laughed when he said he had once wanted to marry Christina Onassis ("Love her? God no! I wanted to run Olympic") and, having landed his monogrammed helicopter, staggered out of the cockpit with cocaine all over his face. They said he wasn't that bad really, quite funny actually, and took his drugs.

Thoroughly flamboyant commanded morbid respect until it became apparent that to be a member of Bristol's entourage was to experience the throes of his disorders. During a holiday in a villa in Porto Ercole the property developer Andy Pierce collapsed and died after a heavy drinking bout. Francesca Fisher to whom the marquess was briefly married, was driven halfway over a cliff in the Bentley and left hanging there like the last scene of *The Iceman Cometh*. The Peugeot belonging to an acquaintance was purloined, on purpose, when Bristol drove his Cherokee Chief jeep into it.

Perched on a pedestal of decadence, the shadow of aristocracy in the Jungian sense, darkened the life of a man who wore his crest on his chest but was not protected by it. His was the profligacy that exiled Rochester, the privileged hedonism that, in the history of England's landed families, has always caused shame, bankruptcy and death. When asked if prison had changed him, the seventh Marquess said, "Christ no! What's it supposed to do anyway? Sure, it might work for stupid people but it's designed for the lower classes really isn't it?"

At various times in his life he was estimated to be worth between £1m and £30m but, in the end, he was just a junkie – scabrous, pathetic, helpless, desperate – in and out of court, almost penniless, usually friendless.

"John confuses money with character," his friend Nick Somerville once said. "He thinks because he is richer than people he must be better than them."

**John confuses money with character.**  
He thinks because he is richer than people he must be better than them'

flagged down his Bentley in Eaton Square and confiscated a quantity of heroin. June saw him selling off 2.20 acres of his estate for some £3.5m and fighting an eviction order from the National Trust who were hoping to curtail his lifetime tenancy in the east wing of Ickworth. In September he received two years' probation for possession. Another judge had given him another chance.

Frederick William John Augustus, seventh Marquess of Bristol, also Baron Hervey of Ickworth, Earl of



Bristol at Ickworth, the family seat in Suffolk, which he finally left last year

Bristol, Earl Jermyn, and Hereditary High Steward of the Liberty of St Edmunds, came from a line of fantastic oligarchs. According to the *Dictionary of National Biography* his forebears were, variously, "active and brave, but reckless and over-confident . . . greatly addicted to intrigue . . . of loose morals and sceptical opinions . . . effeminate . . . Alexander Pope referred to one of them

as "that milk-white curd of asses milk", but Dr Johnson thought them good company: "If you will call a dog Hervey," he said, "I shall love him."

A ward of court, the young Earl Jermyn spent much of his childhood at Ickworth and was close to his stepmother Lady Juliet (née Fitzwilliam), until she too departed. After attending Hill House and Heatherdown, he went to Harrow. Father and son, inextricably linked by the genetic curse, were locked in legislative warfare for many years. A large part of the estate and many treasures had already been handed to the nation's treasury in lieu of death duties. In 1975 Victor Hervey, by then the sixth Marquess, put the house and its contents on the market and John was forced to raise the £2.6m required to buy back his home. Ickworth was, perhaps, the only thing he cared for, or dared to care for, and even that went in the end. The contents were sold at auction in 1996 for some £2.5m, and the remaining lease on the east wing given up to the National Trust last year. The house had been in his family since the 15th century.

"Extreme emotions can be dangerous," Bristol told me. "I get bursts of pleasure from beauty. There was a fauna once that came into this house and I liked that because it showed that people had emotions. My father had no emotions at all really."

What was Bristol like? It was difficult to tell. I spent a week at Ickworth once. He had tailored suits cut in unusual hues, a megaphonic voice and eyes that rolled around. There were slurred conversations about his cars and his possessions and the jokes that he had played on people; there were servants and there were young boys who enacted affection. But the man? He had become an exhibition. He sat in his stately dining room beneath his family portraits and he could not eat. He could hardly speak. An all-consuming misery underpinned his drug habit and he accepted both as inevitable rather than rectifiable.

"You can buy something that is self-gratifying," he said, "but self-gratification does not last long enough and it does not turn into happiness. I can tell you. I've tried it for a long time."

JESSICA BERENS

*Frederick William John Augustus Hervey: born 15 September 1954; styled Earl Jermyn 1960-83; succeeded 1985 as seventh Marquess of Bristol; married 1984 Francesca Jones (née Fisher); marriage dissolved 1997; died 10 January 1999.*

MANY LAWYERS have a second career inside their legal persona trying to get out and Solomon Kaufman was no exception.

He was born in London in 1908, the son of Russian Jewish immigrants. His father imported china and perhaps it was this early connection with design which would give Kaufman his second career in art, when he retired from the law.

He was educated at the Grocers' School in Hackney, east London. Fluent in languages, Kaufman took degrees at the universities of London, Bonn, and Montpellier, ending with postgraduate study at the University of Moscow on the law relating to international rivers, before qualifying as a solicitor. After a short period with Nathan & Co he established his own firm, Kaufman and Siegel, specialising in trust and entertainment work.

Throughout his career he was interested in Jewish matters and in the 1930s he was the Honorary Secretary to the International Political Committee of the Jewish Agency. After the Second World War he took a close interest in the development of the state of Israel, acting for the Israeli Provisional Government in three appeals, two successful, to the Privy Council over death sentences passed on Jewish dissidents.

In 1962 he was asked to represent the spy Robert Soblen, a naturalised American who had been removed from Israel by US marshals in what might politely be described as complicated circumstances. Soblen had been accused of conspiracy to deliver secret information to Russia in 1944-45. Because of ill-health, he was released on bail and on 25 June 1962, the day the US Supreme Court rejected his case and he was due to start a life sentence, he fled to Israel using his dead brother's passport.

Soblen was then taken on a specially chartered plane to Athens, where he was transferred to an El Al airliner bound for New York via London. En route he was stabbed himself with a steak knife and the plane was diverted to Heathrow. The Home Secretary had made an order under the Aliens Order refusing Soblen leave to land but on humanitarian grounds he was rushed to hospital. Two days later he was out of danger and the order requiring him to leave was served. Now Soblen wished to challenge the legality of the order on the grounds that he had received implied leave to land and could not subsequently be refused leave without deportation proceedings.

Kaufman applied for a writ of habeas corpus for his client, with an emergency midnight hearing before a judge at his home in St John's Wood, north London. It was successful. Meanwhile, in Israel, there had been a vote of no confidence in the Knesset over the circumstances of Soblen's deportation. An application for Soblen's release to the High Court and the Court of Appeal failed.

It was then announced that, if Soblen was placed on an El Al aircraft, he would be taken back to Israel, so it was arranged he would fly Pan Am. Then, on 6 September, in somewhat mysterious circumstances, Soblen obtained 30 grains of Seconal in prison and swallowed them before he was flown out. He died four days later. The outcome may not have been a happy one but Kaufman had shown he could work quickly under pressure in politically sensitive cases.

The next year Kaufman undertook his most famous case, when he was asked by the Jewish World Congress to represent the writer Leon Uris in the libel action brought against him by the former concentration camp doctor Wladislaw Dering, by now living in London. In his book *Exodus* Uris had alleged that Dering had performed some 17,000 experimental and unnecessary operations on prisoners in Auschwitz.

One of the problems Kaufman faced was to obtain hospital records from Poland, which was by this time under Communist rule. It was his skill in negotiating with the authorities that secured the vital release of these documents, which showed in Dering's clear handwriting the details of the operations he had undertaken and which turned the case in favour of the defendants. In the resulting trial, Dering obtained the derisory damages of a halfpenny. But the triumph was for Uris and Kaufman. Dering died the following year, still owing some £17,000 of the costs of the action.

Kaufman resolved to give up politically orientated work and concentrated on his commercial practice before he retired from active practice in 1960, becoming a consultant with Sacker and Partners.

He then took up what was the love of his life – art. Already he had a fine collection of both modern and 18th-century drawings. Now he enrolled in art-history studies at both University College London and Essex University, obtaining a PhD and later an MPhil in Italian Stage Art in 1992. He then lectured at the Cini Foundation in Venice from 1992 to 1990 on Italian Stage Aesthetics. He was a member of the Council of Friends of Art Museums of Israel, to which he left his library of over 2,000 volumes.

JAMES MORTON

*Solomon Kaufman, lawyer and art historian: born London 18 May 1908; married 1936 Jennie Lubin (died 1998; one son, one daughter); died London 25 December 1998.*

Represented Leon Uris

## John May



Scholarly book catalogues

JOHN MAY enjoyed a unique international reputation as a dealer in second-hand and antiquarian books on music and musicians. His business May & May, with his wife Laurie, was initially a part-time activity, their first sale catalogue appearing in April 1964. Their most recent, for December 1998, was the 250th.

May was a remarkable self-made man, and an extraordinarily self-effacing one, whose belief in public service was evident in his many voluntary activities in music and elsewhere. His politics focused on free speech and fair play; he was an active member of Amnesty International and Index on Censorship.

He was born in Croydon (the family home was in Thornton Heath, his father a company secretary, with a passion for books which John inherited). A grammar-school education led, despite a teenage flirtation with pacifism, to a war spent in the RAF. In later life, he never referred to his war service. In fact, he enlisted in June 1941 and trained in South Africa from May 1942 to May 1943, being commissioned in April 1943 as Flight Lieutenant. Posted to Bomber Command, with 619 Squadron from August 1944 to January 1945, he flew Lancasters from Dulholme Lodge and Strubby in Lincolnshire.

On a mission to target Würzburg, one of his engines failed over enemy territory, but he successfully pressed home his attack, and was awarded the DFC. The citation highlighted his "gallantry in the face of the enemy" which had been "a source of inspiration to all the crews of his squadron". May participated in the Dresden raid, whose horror was not lost on him, and he later developed a wide interest in German history. During 1947 he was posted to

Russian, Czech, Hungarian. He built an unrivalled international knowledge of music and the literature of music through handling and cataloguing it over half a lifetime.

When I first knew him May & May operated from their Putney home, shelving covering every wall. Later, seeking more space, they moved to Tisbury, and then Semley near Shaftesbury. Seeking a job which would also enable them to develop their music business, he took the part-time post of Secretary of the Orchestral Employers Association, which he developed from a narrow 1950s organisation for negotiating with the Musicians' Union into today's Association of British Orchestras. He put the ABO on a sound footing as an employer's trade association, and finally left in 1985.

May was widely known in the musical world, and influential in the formation of the National Centre for Orchestral Studies and the National Campaign for the Arts. He was a board member of the Western Orchestral Society (Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra), becoming Vice-Chairman. It was his personal vision that established the Ermill Trust, now the Music Libraries Trust, in 1982, to fund impecunious music librarians and researchers to attend conferences and meetings and carry out research.

While with BOAC he was involved in trade union development, taking pride in ensuring that members were able to exercise their right to opt out of the Labour Party levy. This first-hand union experience would provide him with the stepping stone to another strand of his work for music, as Secretary of the Association of British Orchestras.

After his first marriage ended in divorce, in 1957 he married Laurie Lyons, whom he had met when they were both Labour councillors.

Though without formal training he acquired a wide practical knowledge

of languages; French, German, developed, he took a growing interest in the work of music librarians. Becoming a member of the UK branch of the International Association of Music Libraries (IAML/UK), he became a committee member 1973-79, and President, 1980-82. Lacking academic qualifications, at first he felt himself insufficiently qualified to accept the presidency, but once persuaded, as in the ABO, he transformed the organisation, introducing a business-like committee structure, making it outward- rather than inward-looking, and tried to ensure that the most junior were given a voice. IAML/UK's organisation and activity today is in no small part a legacy of John May.

May & May had a particular role. Models of their kind, John May's catalogues had a consistent range, depth and frequency that was quite amazing. But it did not end there, for customers became friends and May increasingly found himself an irreplaceable institution in bringing together scholars working in many fields, and successfully searching for "wants" no matter how obscure. Notable collections dispersed through the catalogues included those of Anna Instone and Julian Herbage, Trevor Harvey and Christopher Palmer. Fully referenced and extensively annotated, the catalogues provided something for every taste, and reading them was an education, as well as a pleasure. A set constitutes an enduring scholarly memorial.

LEWIS FOREMAN

*John William May, bookseller and administrator: born Croydon, Surrey 8 July 1922; DFC 1945; married 1948 Doreen Hutchinson (two daughters; marriage dissolved), 1957 Laurie Lyons (one son); died Bristol 28 December 1998.*

## Lt-Col Paul Rivièrè



Secret landings

PAUL RIVIÈRE was one of the critical figures in French resistance to Nazi occupation. He ran, from 1942, secret air landings in southern France in 1942 to 1944.

Born in 1912, he was a schoolmaster as his father had been; and so was made a sergeant instructor at the cavalry cadet's school at Saumur, of which staff and students together held out for three days against the otherwise headstrong-victorious German army in June 1940.

Rivièrè evaded capture and went back to his home in Burgundy, where he joined Henri Frenay's early resistance movement Combat. After serving an apprenticeship delivering clandestine newspapers, he graduated to receiving a parachute drop in June 1942. The Vichy police then caught up with him and put him in prison at Lyons for four months on the charge of distributing anti-government propaganda. He was let out just before the Germans occupied Vichy's hitherto "free" two-fifths of France, and went straight back to helping receive the Lysander aircraft in which Frenay had returned to France.

He was himself brought over to England for training by Hudson in May 1943 and at once made friends with Hugh Verity who commanded the Lysander flight of 161 Squadron (and has described his work vividly in *We Landed by Moonlight*, first published in 1978 and still in print). He was also much taken by Geneviève Fassin, who helped lay out the lights for that Hudson: they later married.

He parachuted back into France in July to replace Bruno Larat, who had organised his flight out as head of the Service d'Alérages et d'Parachutages, the Free French organisation that co-operated with the RAF and with SOE in arranging parachute drops and secret pick-ups by light aircraft all over southern France (Larat had fallen into enemy hands).

He personally received at least one Hudson a month for several months thereafter: no easy task. For each operation he had to find a suitable field, clear it with the Air Ministry by secret wireless, find reliable friends to help him light it when a coded message on the BBC's French service told him the aircraft was coming, collect and hide the departing passengers, and have a safe landing place for any arrivals.

His passengers included a future president of France, Vincent Auriol; General de Lattre de Tassigny; and several past and future ministers of the third and fourth Republics, as well as such heroes of resistance as Richard Heslop and Victor Gerson. His wife supported him through all the perils, and was quite capable of managing a secret air landing by herself if such chance made his husband unavailable.

All this was done in the teeth of 15 separate Vichy French police forces, as well as the Abwehr and the Gestapo; none of whom ever got hold of

Rivièrè again. Occasionally, indeed, he found the French police helpful. Once he was almost run over by a Hudson that landed across wind and lost his pipe and spectacles; a gendarme searching the field next morning found them and unobtrusively handed them back.

On the night of 8/9 February 1944 a Hudson received by Rivièrè stuck in the mud at the edge of its field in Burgundy. Manpower could not shift it. The mayor of the nearby village arrived and mobilised a pair of oxen and a cart horse. They got the Hudson clear and it took off, safely carrying with it an RAF evader and two eminent resistors on the run, the Aubrac and their little boy Madame Aubrac went into labour on the journey and had her baby later that day.

He was brought out to England again by Hudson in May 1944. More passengers had been carried secretly between France and England by his agency than by any other. As his official rank was still sergeant, he was fobbed off with a military medal; an OBE was added later when de Gaulle made him a Lieutenant-Colonel.

In that rank he served successively in Indo-China, Germany and Japan, where he was military attaché from 1956-59. He then had the horrific posting of chief security officer in Algeria from which he was glad to retire to politics in 1962. He was deputy for the Loire department for 16 years and retired happily to live at Montagny, of which he was mayor.

M. R. D. FOOR

*Paul Claude Marie Rivièrè, army officer and wartime resister: born Montagny, France 22 November 1912; married 1943 Geneviève Fassin (deceased; three sons, one daughter); died Lyons, France 16 December 1998.*

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# The Right Rev Ronald Goodchild

**BISHOP RONALD** Goodchild is remembered with smiling admiration by an unusual variety of those who shared their youth with him: in schools, in the RAF and in the immediate post-war church houses, especially St Michael's House, Hamburg. At the end of his career it was noted that, as bishop presiding at a major diocesan meeting, he ensured a full discussion when the administrative machine wished to deprive an enterprising and rather bouncy young curate of extra earnings. Goodchild was not one for sweeping things under the carpet to the disadvantage of the young.

Goodchild's sense of fun and delight in other people's good fortune made his determined work for the deprived through Christian Aid, of which he was chairman for 10 years, all the more effective. As Bishop of Kensington he never kowtowed to the smart or was too hurried to miss the deeper underlying problems. His 16 years as Bishop in west London saw a slow but creative introduction of new forms of worship, fresh parochial initiatives and warmer relationships between the churches. He would wander into houses or vicarages, wealthy or poor, with the assurance of an experienced family GP: sharing a Christianity whose hard core was shrewd practical kindness. He led happy and hard-working groups of parishes.

Goodchild was born in 1910 in Australia, the son of a former Bush Brother. He was educated at St John's School, Leatherhead, and Trinity College, Cambridge. After spending time in teaching he was ordained in 1933 to St Mary's, Ealing, and in 1937 became Chaplain of Oakham School. In 1942 he insisted on volunteering as an RAF Chaplain and was twice mentioned in Despatches in post-D-Day flights of Typhoon fighters in constant action. He remained a Chaplain after the war and was appointed to the imaginative, newly created St Michael's House in Hamburg from 1946 to 1949.

The post-war European church houses established personal contact with the young Nazis who had been selected by the Third Reich to rebuild Europe. These young Germans disillusioned in defeat were keen to learn the secret of their conquerors. Goodchild was a genius at conveying the essence of practical Christianity and convincing the young of the need for a new approach. The fact that he both became their friend and was an expert mimic of their eccentricities assisted the process - which was aided by the presence on the staff of a young Dutch resistance worker and other non-German Europeans.

Goodchild's experience of the crucial power of shared discovery was carried on by him later as General Secretary of the Student Christian Movement in Schools. He also served the Parish and People Movement which changed the pattern of life and worship all over England. As Vicar of Horsham, then Archdeacon of Northampton and finally Bishop in west London his temperamentally mild approach persuaded those he served that the time had come for the Church of England to change its ways.

He and his wife Jean, whom he married in 1947, always welcomed colleagues and neighbours into their homes whether in Sussex, Peterborough or London. He organised the transformation of his rectory at Ecton to become a valued retreat house for the Diocese of Peterborough after his departure. In London at their home Campden Hill there was a stream of visitors and neighbours. Here were held many gatherings of all kinds - Anglicans, Free Church people and Roman Catholics all drawing closer together.

*While he may have been inarticulate about doctrinal complexities, those he served felt that here was a great man conscious of God's presence in life's diversity*

Ronnie Goodchild's experience was exceptionally wide. His inheritance of the Bush Brother tradition, his own harsh knowledge of intense post-D-Day fighting and his empathy with the young British and young Germans gave him insights rare amongst more prominent church leaders. Though he respected tradition, he was not doctrinaire. He never stopped searching for ways in which Christianity might be tried in everyday life and, if he was inarticulate about doctrinal complexities, those he served felt that here was a great man conscious of God's presence in life's diversity.

In the 1970s he became drawn to the ecumenical Focolare Movement, based



Goodchild with Jane Asher celebrating the 100th birthday of St Michael and All Angels, Bedford Place, in London

in Rome, and he joined a group of bishops friendly to the movement, from seven different denominations in regular meetings to the end of his life, in Rome, in Ottomar in Germany, and at the Focolare Centre for Unity in Welwyn Garden City.

Towards the end of his 16 years as Bishop of Kensington Goodchild became a serious craftsman: his creativity as a designer and maker of chairs and other furniture expressed the delight he had always found in the work of other artists. His humour and sense of fun allowed him to shock as well as to laugh, both to enjoy cricket and also the oddities of the modern world.

ALAN WEBSTER

Ronald Cedric Osbourne Goodchild, priest, born Parramatta, New South Wales 17 October 1910; ordained deacon 1934; priest 1935; Chaplain, Oakham School 1937-42; Warden, St Michael's House, Homburg 1946-49; General Secretary, SCM in Schools 1949-53; Rector, St Helen's Bishopsgate with St Martin Outwich 1951-52; Vicar of Horsham 1952-59; Archdeacon of Northampton and Vicar of Ecton 1959-64; Bishop Suffragan of Kensington 1964-68; Chairman, Christian Aid Department, British Council of Churches 1964-74; Honorary Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Exeter 1983-98; married 1947 Jean Ross (one son, four daughters); died Harland, Devon 28 December 1998.

## GAZETTE

### BIRTHDAYS

Mr Anthony Andrews, actor, 51; Mr Michael Aspel, television presenter, 66; Mr Herbert Barratt, former trade union leader, 94; Lord Boardman, former chairman, National Westminster Bank, 80; Mr Pieter Willems Botha, former President of South Africa, 83; Sir James Bottomley, former diplomat, 79; The Hon Sir Richard Butler, former President, National Farmers' Union, 70; Dame Fiona Caldicot, consultant psychotherapist, 57; Lady Cosgrove QC, a Senator of the College of Justice of Scotland, 52; Miss Stella Cunliffe, statistician, 82; Mr Keith Dawson, former Headmaster, Haberdashers' Aske's School, 62; Mr Brendan Foster, former Olympic athlete, 51; Mr Joe Frazier, heavyweight boxer, 55; Baroness Hammie, solicitor and local councillor, 52; Baroness Hilton of Eggardon, former Head of Training, Metropolitan Police, 63; Miss Anna Howell, opera and concert singer, 58; Sir Anthony McCowan, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, 71; Mr Denis Milne, former managing director, BP Oil, 73; Mr James Mortimer, former General Secretary of the Labour Party, 78; The Very Rev Dr John Moses, Dean of St Paul's, 61; Mrs Kali Mountford MP, 45; Mr Des O'Connor, comedian, singer and television presenter, 67; Miss Louise

Rainer, actress and painter, 89; Sir John Renouf, former Commissioner-General, UNRWA, 82; Sir Terence Streeton, former diplomat, 69; Sir Swinton Thomas, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 68.

### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Jean Baptiste van Helmont, chemist, 1580; Giuseppe Riba ("Lo Spagnoletto"), painter, 1588; Edmund Burke, statesman, 1729; Lazzaro Spallanzani, physiologist and chemist, 1739; Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi, educational reformer, 1746; Erik Gustaf Geijer, poet and historian, 1783; George William Frederick Villiers, fourth Earl of Clarendon, politician, 1800; Arabella Goddard, pianist, 1836; Adolf Jensen, pianist and composer, 1837; Joseph-Jacques-Césaire Joffre, French marshal, 1852; John Singer Sargent, portrait painter, 1856; Sir Charles William Chadwick Oman, historian, 1860; John Griffith (Jack) London, novelist, 1876; Ferenc Molnár, playwright, 1878; Curbastro Gherardo Ricci, mathematician, 1883; Hermann Goering, Nazi leader, 1883; Paul Müller, chemist, producer of DDT, 1899; Igor Vasilievich Kurchatov, physicist, 1903; Tex Ritter (Woodward Maurice Ritter), actor, 1907.

Deaths: Maximilian I, Holy Roman Emperor, 1519;

### CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments have been announced by the Church of England:

Canon Paul Attlin, Canon Aviator with Pastoral and Priest-in-Charge, Bexley Regis and Gresham (Norwich); to be also Diocesan Chaplain, Mothers' Union (same diocese). The Rev Canon Dr Alan Curnow, Assistant Curate, Great and Little Driffield (York); to be Assistant Curate, South Cave and Ellerby with Broomefield (same diocese). The Rev Dr Euan Evans, Rector, Somersham with Fidley and Oldhurst (Ely); to be Rector, Hilgay and Southrey (same diocese). The Rev Anna-Lisa Carrie, NSM Curate, Chipping St. James, to be Chichester, Cheltenham and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust (London). The Rev Martin Heselton, formerly at Chipping, Norfolk School (Norwich); The Rev Dr Denis Lloyd, Priest-in-Charge, Malvern St. Andrew (Worcester); to be also Rural Dean of Malvern (same diocese). The Rev Margaret Saville, Curate, Over St. Chad (Chester); to be Vicar, Cresswell All Saints and St Paul (same diocese). The Rev Canon Dr John Ziegler, Rector, St. John's (Oxford); has been given permission to officiate (same diocese). The Rev John Trickey, Priest-in-Charge, St. John's (Walsall); to be Priest-in-Charge, St. John's (Walsall) (same diocese). The Rev Simon Vibert, Curate-in-Charge, Buxton Trinity Chapel (Derby); to be Vicar, Wimbleton Park (Surrey). The Rev Stephen Williams, Assistant Curate, Llandaff & Aled (Gwynedd); to be Priest-in-Charge, Trusteth Park St. Agnes and St. Pancras (Liverpool). The Rev Ronald Whittington, Vicar, Honley (West Yorkshire); to be Team Vicar, Huddersfield, Dewsbury, Ellistown and Salsbury (Leeds). The Rev Paul Williams, Vicar, Chester Holy Trinity (Chester); to be Honorary Canon of the Cathedral Church of Christ and Blessed Virgin Mary (same diocese).

### OTHER APPOINTMENTS

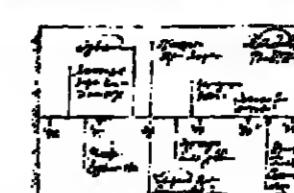
Mr Nicholas William Garside, to be a full-time Chairman of Employment Tribunals.

### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £5.50 a line (VAT extra).

## OBITUARIES/7



### HISTORICAL NOTES

DONALD H. WOLFE

## Kennedy murdered Marilyn Monroe

AS THIS century draws to a close the ghost of Marilyn Monroe continues to haunt an era. She was larger than life and died suddenly, prematurely, and mysteriously. Troubling questions still surround her death.

While many have despaired of the truth being told in their lifetime, 35 years after Monroe's alleged suicide startling new information has evolved regarding the circumstances of the film star's death. Recent statements by key witnesses, a re-evaluation of the autopsy report, and new documentary evidence now establishes Marilyn Monroe was a murder victim, and that she died shortly after a violent argument with Robert Kennedy, the Attorney General of the United States.

The release of a top secret Central Intelligence Agency file documents what heretofore had been speculation. Dated 3 August 1962, the day before her death, the document establishes that Monroe's home had been placed under electronic surveillance by the CIA in the last months of her life. Concerned about her "trysts with the President and Attorney General", the CIA file states that Monroe kept a "diary of secrets", a journal of her private conversations with Jack and Robert Kennedy, and that she was privy to closely guarded government secrets.

While there always had been speculation that Robert Kennedy was involved with

Monroe's death, the official story was that the Attorney General was in northern California that weekend. However, the retired Los Angeles Police Chief Daryl Gates has now admitted that Kennedy was in Los Angeles on the day Monroe died, and in 1985 Eunice Murray, her housekeeper, revealed on the BBC documentary *Say Goodbye to the President* that Robert Kennedy had visited the film star's house in the hours before she died.

Norman Jefferies, Mrs Murray's son-in-law, was recently interviewed for the first time and proved to be an eye-witness to the events that took place at Monroe's home on the day she died. Jefferies said the Attorney General arrived with the actor Peter Lawford in the mid-afternoon of 4 August 1962, and there had been a violent quarrel. Jefferies revealed that Kennedy had threatened Monroe and her psychiatrist, Dr Ralph Greenson, was called to quiet her down.

Jefferies stated that Kennedy returned at approximately 10 o'clock that evening with two men he didn't recognise. Told to leave the premises, Jefferies and Mrs Murray waited at a neighbour's house for Kennedy and the two men to depart. Upon returning to the house later, they found Monroe comatose in the same cottage, where she died. Jefferies said Monroe's body was moved to the

main house by officers of the LAPD intelligence division and that the "suicide in the locked bedroom" scenario was orchestrated by the intelligence officers.

A re-evaluation of Marilyn Monroe's autopsy report establishes that she didn't die of an overdose of sleeping tablets, but by an injection of a barbiturate. John Miner, Assistant Los Angeles District Attorney, who was present at the autopsy, has never been convinced that Marilyn Monroe committed suicide. Miner believes the evidence points to murder, and he has requested that the Los Angeles District Attorney's office re-open the case and have the her body exhumed. There's no statute of limitations on murder, and there's more than ample evidence to support the re-opening of the Marilyn Monroe case.

John Miner and many others feel that Monroe should not bear the stigma of a "probable suicide".

The doors of officialdom in Los Angeles are not likely to open readily to a new investigation. On the other hand, if the case isn't re-opened and if witnesses are not called to testify under oath, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis may be proved correct in saying, "Marilyn Monroe will go on eternally."

*Donald H. Wolfe is the author of "The Assassination of Marilyn Monroe" (Little, Brown, £17.50)*

## Injunction to prevent accountants from acting

### TUESDAY LAW REPORT

12 JANUARY 1999

Prince Jefri Bolkiah v KPMG (a firm)

House of Lords (Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Clyde, Lord Hutton and Lord Millett) 18 December 1998

in *Rakusen v Ellis, Munday and Clarke* [1912] 1 Ch 831, which was authority for two propositions:

(i) that there was no absolute rule of English law that a solicitor might not act in litigation against a former client;

(ii) that the solicitor might be restricted from acting if it were necessary to avoid a significant risk of the disclosure or misuse of confidential information belonging to the former client.

It was conceded by KPMG that an accountant who provided litigation support services of the kind provided to Prince Jefri had to be treated for present purposes in the same way as a solicitor.

The basis of the court's jurisdiction to intervene on behalf of a former client was the protection of confidential information: the duty was to keep the information confidential, not merely to take all reasonable steps to do so.

The test in *Rakusen* imposed an unfair burden on the former client, exposed him to a potential and avoidable risk to which he had not consented, and failed to give him a sufficient assurance that his confidentiality would be respected. The case for a strict approach was unsatisfactory.

That had involved the forensic accounting department of KPMG in the provision of extensive litigation support services. They were entrusted with or acquired extensive confidential information concerning Prince Jefri's assets and financial affairs.

That had become clear that assignment was in part at least adverse to Prince Jefri's interests, but KPMG accepted the appointment, having issued instructions that a "Chinese wall" should be put in place within the forensic accounting department.

*Gordon Pollock QC, Richard Meade and James Collins (Lovel White Durrant) for Prince Jefri; David Donaldson QC, AR Malek QC and David Quest (Stephen Harwood) for KPMG.*

Lord Millett said that the controlling authority on the issues raised in the case was the decision of the Court of Appeal

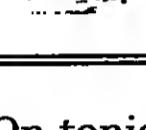
### WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

mattress, n.

ple; and men's close knowledge of the Godfather, as in the advice "go to the mattress" - sleeping on the floor before an offensive.

Absent from the OED, it figures in the Random House American Slang, but not until a 1976 instance, when it means something defensive, derived from *mattresses* as a shield against bullets. The Godfather perhaps echoes to an old naval expression, to go to the mat - to settle a dispute by wrestling.

DANI  
studying  
BiologyROSIE  
studying  
FrenchDAVID  
studying  
ManagementLEONA  
was studying  
MathsTASHA  
studying  
ManagementALISTAIR  
studying  
ManagementRACHAEL  
studying  
Art HistoryIAN  
studying  
GeographyROBBIE  
studying  
Economics

# Back in the low life again

They're all partied out and hungover as hell. Some things never change. By Cayte Williams

THE STUDENTS are drifting back to their Manchester house after two weeks of Christmas telly. Ian, who has bar shifts to do, is the first back, but his homecoming is ruined by the discovery that the house has been broken into.

"They managed to get into Alistair's room," he explains. "We won't know whether anything has been stolen until he comes back from America, but thank God his computer is still there."

Anyway, they've had the window fixed and everything is back to normal. Dani's back in Manchester, Tasha is on her way up north, Robbie and Dave are back at home in Leeds and Sutherland respectively (they've got exams soon, so they've decided to study where they don't have to worry about taxing things such as cooking, washing etc.) and Leona's still in Coventry.

So how were the holidays? Ian had a great Christmas at home with his family after he'd spent four days in the Manchester house on his own in bed with flu. "It was better that way," he says

stoically, "because it meant I didn't give it to anybody else."

He went on to have a brilliant new year in Edinburgh with his older brother Stuart, Dave and Robbie. Minutes after midnight, in a Hogmanay crowd of 200,000, they bumped into Tasha. "I was supposed to be going up to Edinburgh with Leona," explains Tasha, "but of course she changed her mind. I knew the boys were going to be there, but I had given up any hope of meeting up with them. Then at midnight, Ian's mate grabbed me: all the boys were there. It was just so nice."

In fact, Tasha was impressed with Edinburgh. "It was so spectacular," she continues. "You don't get anything like it in London. People go to Trafalgar Square, but what do they do there? There are no bands, the pubs are all shut, nobody's happy - while everyone was really friendly in Edinburgh.

So as a Londoner, is she sick and tired of her home town? "It's not that I think Londoners are

## THIS STUDENT

### LIFE



#### SPRING TERM, WEEK 1 AT THE MANCHESTER STUDENT HOUSE

unfriendly, I just think the council in Edinburgh made a real effort."

In fact, Tasha had so much fun that she's decided that she

really likes living with the boys, no matter how much mooning and ladish banter that involves. She'll be buying *Loafed* next.

"The lads have made me less prudish," she laughs. "At first I thought: 'You rough, rough people, stop it!' I thought I was living with complete deviants because of their jokes and the ridiculous things they do. Now I see the funny side of things, because they're not being serious at all. I find their humour more endearing. They will always be crude nine-year-olds. There's nothing you can do about it!" Mind you, this is Tasha, remember, the girl whose ladette credentials include virtually no possessions in her room and a total refusal to cook (takeaways are so much more practical).

But she surprised herself by cooking the entire Christmas dinner for her family. "How festive is that?" she laughs, still amazed at herself. "I don't cook at all! It was quite a surreal occasion. I was thinking this is

going really well. Now I don't think cooking is such a big deal."

Tasha also has something else on the back burner. When Leona gets back, she and Tasha are going to set up a new business.

They've seen Alistair and Dave's little ventures and have decided to organise coach trips to their favourite club, Gatecrasher, which is in Sheffield. "It's so hard to get them from Manchester," says Tasha. "So you can make a couple of hundred pounds a week just sorting the coach out and getting the tickets. It could go horribly wrong, but you've got to show willing..."

Meanwhile, across the Atlantic Ocean, Alistair is still on holiday. He's staying with his father in Raleigh, North Carolina, and has met up with some old mates. There is his childhood friend, Lucien, whom he's known since he was three, and Tori, a girl he's known for years. "I was here at Easter last year and ever since there's been 'something' between us," he says of Tori. "We've called

each other as much as we could afford, and so, coming over here again, I hoped we'd finally be getting together." He and Tori spent Christmas with his dad, his dad's girlfriend, Liz, and her two children. "Tori and I are kind of special," he says. "We've both liked each other since we were about 10. Things are really great between us, probably too good, as I'm going back to Manchester soon, but we've been trying to have as much fun as possible, and we don't want to get too involved."

What odds for this long-distance love affair? Crossing the Atlantic is a long way to go for a night out at the pictures. Undaunted, Tori's planning on coming over to Manchester at Easter, and when Alistair goes to the University of Massachusetts on exchange next year he'll be only a couple of hours' drive away from Tori in New York. So what does Alistair reckon? "We'll see," he says. "But at the moment let's just say we're just living for the memories."

On tonight's *University Challenge* a retired solicitor pits his wits against BBC bully boy Jeremy Paxman. And wins. By Emma Cook

# The quiz man with all the answers



Lance Haward has been on them all, from the heights of 'Mastermind' to the low of 'Sale of the Century'

Nicola Kurtz

**S**tumbling, hesitation and swearing are not responses we expect from our most belligerent of quiz masters. Jeremy Paxman may run verbal rings around politicians, but on tonight's *University Challenge* he seems to have met his match in the rather unlikely form of one Lance Haward, a contestant on the show.

Half-way through, Lance enjoys his moment of glory when Jezza asks: "Which medical instrument was devised by the Frenchman Len, Rennie, Len...?", and is swiftly interrupted with Lance's correct reply. "The stethoscope". A split second of amazed silence, and Paxman manages a stifled, "Blimey".

Laser-sharp master of the buzzer, Lance Haward, 52, a retired local government solicitor from north London, was desperately keen, some may say more desperate than keen, to make an appearance on the programme. So much so, that one of the reasons Lance signed up for his current course in classical Greek at the Open University was to get a chance to apply. "It's generally thought that *University Challenge*, *Mastermind* and *Brain of Britain* are the top three," he says loftily. "And *University Challenge* was the only one that had so far evaded me."

Lance, who is married with three children, was first drawn to the

"quizzing" circuit after a friend entered him for *Mastermind* without his knowing. He didn't succeed beyond the first round, but was still keen to repeat the experience.

"It's the stimulation of being against the buzzer that brings an adrenaline rush," he says. The heady mix of sitting in that black leather chair and feeling the spotlight upon him was sufficient to drive him to seek further thrills in other formats.

What intrigues him is how his mind adapts under pressure - in particular, how his subconscious seems to save him during moments of stress. Excitedly, he relates one occasion when he pressed the buzzer and didn't know the answer. But did Lance make a fool of himself? Of course not. "It was a question about the federality of the Southern States. The only thing I knew was Richmond, Virginia. How surprised I was when I opened my mouth and came out with the right answer: Jefferson Davis."

Such is the white-knuckle ride of quiz show mastery. Lance was hooked. Next there was Radio 4's prestigious *Brain of Britain*, and then ITV's *The Krypton Factor*. "I did enjoy those assault courses," he admits. But as with any compulsion, it's only a matter of time before the addict's sense of judgement is severely eroded. He ran out of

quality programming and happily entered the netherworld of daytime television. Even though the questions were less taxing, Lance still enjoyed the buzz. "Sale of the Century was the furthest I had to descend," he says ruefully.

In any other context, he could be confused in a "Quiz Show Anonymous" support group - if one doesn't exist yet, then surely it should. There seems to be an increasing number of victims who could benefit, only last November a certain Trevor Montague was sued for breaking the rules of Channel 4's *Fifteen-to-One* by appearing three times under a different name, and disguising his appearance. Money isn't the driving force here, but the more banal mo-

tive of quiz-show notoriety. "After the first appearance, you start getting sucked in. It's the sheer fun of the thing. It's the idea of being in an arena and the spotlight's on you."

There is also a pecking order: an Oxford and Cambridge snobbery among contestants. Lance leans to the upper echelons. "There are certain quiz shows where people asked on are not, one might say, of all that high performance," he says snifflly.

"They seem to be hummed by the easiest of questions." Not that Lance is averse to slumming it intellectually. "Why not enjoy yourself at someone else's expense for an afternoon?" he admits. And so part of his quiz career reads like the

review highlights of TV Quick magazine: *Fifteen-to-One*, *Mastermind*, *The Krypton Factor* and *Jeopardy*. The prizes began to flow in, though: £500 from *Jeopardy*, trophies, glass paperweights and even a bronze replica of a brain. "Heinous," sighs Lance who isn't that interested in material rewards. What he really craves is the academic glory of topping *Brain of Britain* and *Mastermind* with *University Challenge*.

He compares the thrill of these sorts of programmes, grandiosely to the glory of the Roman arena:

"Because the real opposition isn't with other contestants, but with the audience - it feels gladiatorial. What they are really hoping for is for someone to come hideously

unstuck. It's good television; great theatre."

Then there's the cache of the celebrity quizmasters. Magnus, Bamber and Bob too; Lance respects them all. It's common knowledge in the quiz industry, Lance assures me, that Bob Monkhouse is by far the most knowledgeable. But Bamber is every contestant's quiz show hero, the *crème de la crème*.

In contrast, Jezza meets with lukewarm affection, in Lance's eyes anyway. "I don't think Paxman has the urban, authoritative approach that Bamber did. Bamber researched the programme himself and controlled it from the floor. Jezza has to rely on a team."

Lance is less than impressed by

Jeremy's sometimes bullish manner. "I don't think Bamber felt it was essential to tell people they were inept, foolish or slow. Jeremy doesn't seem very inhibited in that area. There's a difference between hurrying quizzing and heckling politicians, and I think Jeremy may be caught between those two styles."

Although Lance refuses to divulge the winners of tonight's show against reigning champions Magdalene College, Oxford, he admits that this may be his last lorry in the quiz arena. "I don't know where I'd go," he says. "What about competing his own show? For once, he's short of an answer: 'Nobody's asked me. I dream about it, but I'm still waiting to be asked.'

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## HEALTH

New research shows that for autistic children a picture really is worth a thousand words. By Liz Bestic

## A window on the world

**W**hen Tina Reynolds found out last year that her three-year-old twin boys were autistic she broke down and cried. She had already guessed there was something seriously wrong because neither Thomas nor Daniel had shown any interest in speaking or communicating with her. "They seemed to be locked into a little world of their own, with no interest in anything around them," she says. Although Tina is the deputy head of a local primary school, she hadn't even had first-hand experience of autism, a disorder that affects more than 500,000 families in the UK.

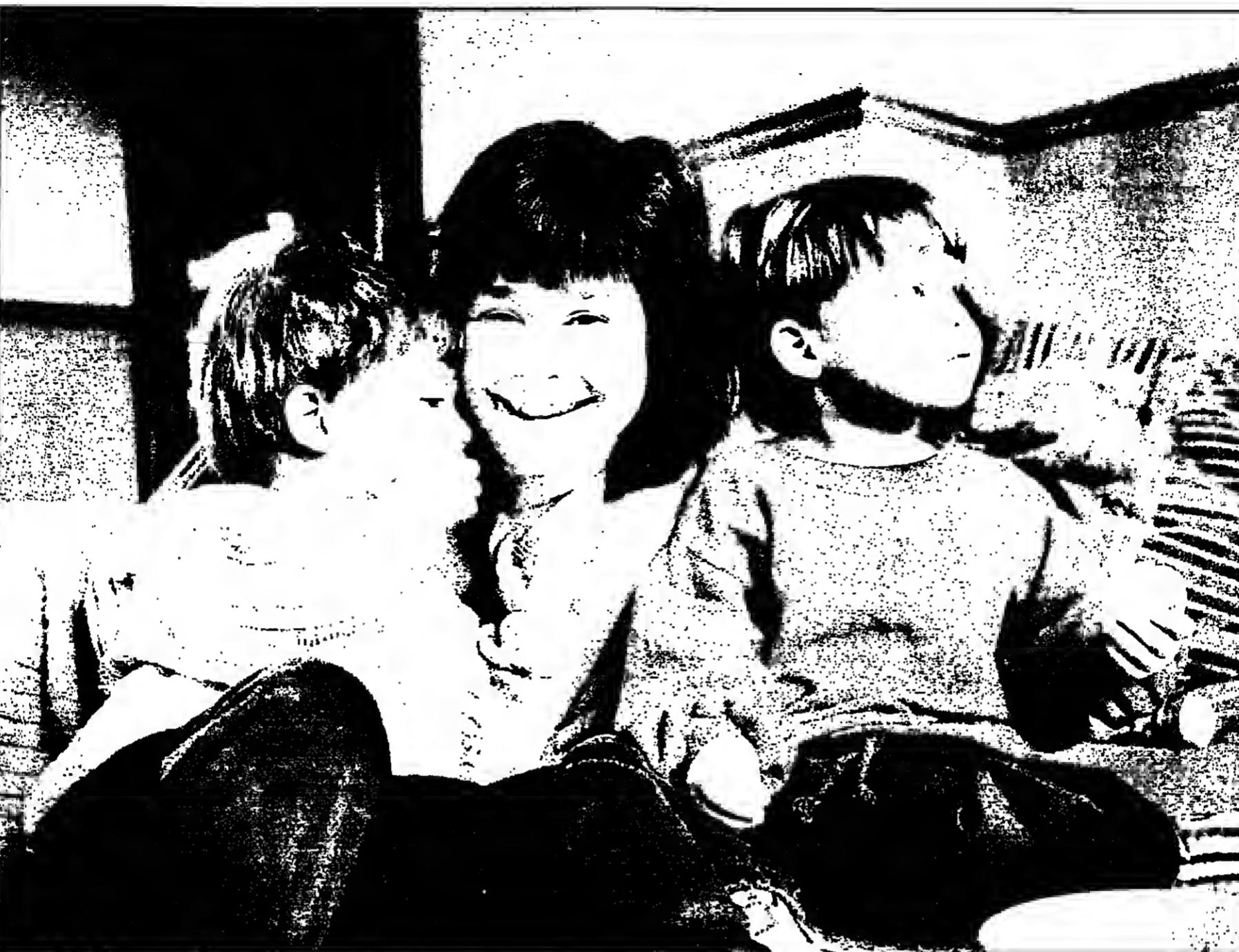
"I was totally unprepared for the disruption it would cause in my life," she says. "It's hard to describe to anyone who has never seen autism. The twins have great difficulty in expressing themselves, and can get extremely frustrated by their own limitations. Just like the character in *Rain Man* they are totally rigid in their routine, and if anything changes that routine they often react quite violently. For example, they come with me when I take my older boy to school. I take them on their reins, and they love it. But they associate going to the school with going to the park afterwards. If I decide to go a different route they throw terrible tantrums. It's quite frightening."

Luckily for Tina she lives in Brighton, where a new scheme to help autistic children is being piloted by her local education authority in a project run by the Children's Society. The Picture Exchange Communications System (PECS) was developed in the US by a speech therapist and a psychologist, who recognised that many autistic children can understand pictures far better than they can understand the spoken word.

The PECS system is quite simple. The child has a book full of pages of cards depicting various images that are attached by Velcro. He or she pulls out the appropriate card and hands it over to the parent. For example, a child may give the parent a picture of a drink and then the parent gives the child the drink, while saying the word "drink".

The advantage of PECS over a system such as signing is that autistic children don't tend to look at people. They are often very visual and can do all sorts of things such as jigsaw puzzles, and so PECS plays to their strengths," explains Jenny Cross, team leader of the Children's Society's Portage Project, who is helping Tina to cope with the boys.

"We first of all had to find out what would motivate the twins, so at their initial assessment they were presented with eight pictures of different types of food. We then simply recorded which food they went for first. Not surprisingly, chocolate buttons came out tops. So we began with those, and each time one of them gave Tina the card with a picture of chocolate buttons on it, he was rewarded with a quarter of a chocolate button," says Jenny.



Tina Reynolds with her autistic twin boys, Thomas (left) and Daniel, who are being helped by the picture exchange system

Andrew Hasson

The PECS programme has had excellent results in the US. In a five-year study of autistic children on the PECS scheme in Delaware, 76 per cent of them began to use speech within a year. Although the aim of the programme is not primarily to teach children to speak, but to give them a functional alternative means of communication, researchers on the Delaware project found that, once children get used to using up to 100 pictures, they often start to speak as a matter of course.

When Tina's twins first got the hang of PECS, it was an emotional moment. "People find it hard to believe how these children can break your heart," says Tina. "They are totally wrapped up in themselves and live inside their own heads. Not only do they have difficulty making sense of words, but they also find it hard to read facial expressions and gestures, so there is a total lack of communication. The twins had reached the point where they were really frustrated at not being able to tell me what they wanted. When Daniel picked up that first card it was pure magic."

What they wanted. When Daniel picked up that first card and handed it to me, it was pure magic."

Sue Baker, an educational psychologist for West Sussex, believes the PECS system is the best scheme around: "A lot of schemes have been developed using pictures which the child pointed to. But autistic children don't realise that

other people. They really don't understand how they are supposed to interact with the rest of the world. The beauty of PECS is that it helps both the parent and the child, because both are involved right from the start," she says.

"Some autistic children manage to acquire language skills, but don't understand why it's necessary. One

twiggled that the noises coming out of his mouth meant something and caused things to happen. It was an incredibly exciting moment for the parents."

Judith Gould, a clinical psychologist and an expert in the field of autism, is a speaker at a conference in London later this month. "We'll be looking at a variety of different ap-

*'The twins were frustrated at not being able to tell me what they wanted. When Daniel picked up that first card it was pure magic'*

you need someone else in the room to communicate to. Pointing is no good if the mother is out of the room. When you have to exchange a picture, it means the child is forced to engage with another person. That's why I believe it is so successful. Most autistic children live in a world of their own and have no concept of why it's so important to interact with

three-year-old I worked with could speak a little, but he would often just repeat what other people said. He couldn't use words in a useful way. As soon as he started on PECS, he 'got the picture' and started to say 'drink banana, biscuit' as he handed the cards over. Once he could see pictures of the words, things started to make sense to him. Then he

proaches that can help autistic children. Early assessment and intervention is the key, but it is important to remember that autism is a spectrum disorder, which means the effects can vary from mild to extremely severe. I would never say one system of intervention suits every autistic child. PECS has a place, like many other programmes.

What's important is to find a system that suits your particular child."

Sue Baker agrees on early assessment: "The sooner a child is assessed as autistic, the better his or her chances of a better quality of life. As soon as a child can recognise pictures, or have some way of reaching for or indicating what they need, they can be started on a PECS programme. One of the main difficulties is that many children are not diagnosed until they are two years old or more. We'd really like to start them sooner than that," she says.

"In the old days, the prognosis for these children was bleak. They were locked in their own world. Now we can see there are ways of improving their lives. If you can structure their environment so they can start to make sense of their world, then you can engage them and they can really start to learn."

*Please send questions to A Question of Health, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; fax 0171-293 2182; or e-mail to health@independent.co.uk. Dr Kavalier cannot respond personally to questions.*

## Caesarean births: let women choose

WE ARE the product of our experience. That is, presumably, what explains the remarkable finding that one-third of female obstetricians in London would opt for a Caesarean in a normal pregnancy if given the choice.

The figure was cited in a controversial article in the *British Medical Journal* which argued that pregnant women should be allowed to choose to have their babies by Caesarean section if they wished to avoid the problems associated with a normal labour. But should the experience of London obstetricians dealing with the most difficult labours be taken as representative of women's experience as a whole?

The subject of childbirth arouses strong passions and the article provoked a vehement response. The original argument, put by Sara Paterson-Brown, consultant obstetrician at Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea hospital, London, bears repeating. Although doctors have frowned on the

## HEALTH CHECK



**JEREMY LAURANCE**

idea of allowing women Caesareans on demand to fit in with busy lives and avoid the pain and unpredictability of labour without sound clinical reasons, attitudes are changing, she wrote.

A clearer assessment of the risks associated with normal labour and delivery has persuaded many women specialists in obstetrics to choose a Caesarean. The risks of vaginal birth include damage to the pelvic floor and to the urethral and anal

sphincters which can result in incontinence and an increased long-term risk of prolapse of the genitals. There is also a risk to the unborn baby, with one in 1,500 non-premature babies weighing more than 1.5kg (3lb 5oz) dying during labour. Ms Paterson-Brown wrote: "Elective Caesarean section cannot guarantee normality but it avoids the above problems by virtue of avoiding labour and prolonging pregnancy."

Childbirth, as I have said, arouses strong passions and it is an area where demands for a woman's right to choose have been loudest. Over the last two decades considerable advances have been made in wresting from the doctors control of what is, after all, a natural process, and giving it back to women. This philosophy has entered the mainstream with the publication of the government report, *Changing Childbirth*, in the early Nineties, which stressed the importance of allowing women to have control of the process.

## Caesareans – are they safer? The Wellcome Trust

In the light of this and other government reports urging doctors to respect women's choices in maternity care, Ms Paterson Brown argued that it was unfair for their choices to be discredited because they are not the ones expected. "We are at a turning-point in obstetric thinking brought about not only by advances that have made Caesarean section safe... but also by the attitudes of society which reflect intolerance to risk. We encourage family planning, pre-pregnancy counselling

and antenatal screening... can we do all this and then refuse a woman a safe mode of delivery?"

Her critics deny that Caesareans are safer than vaginal delivery, arguing that there is a higher risk of hysterectomy because of haemorrhage, and a greater risk of death. They also argue that doctors are not legally obliged to do everything that patients request, even if they are mentally competent to do so. One pointed out that a survey in Holland found



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Apparently, poetry is enjoying a boom. Yet it doesn't sell and nobody reads it. So who needs poets? By Michael Glover

# What words are worth

**W**hat are poets for? Shelley had no doubts at all how to answer that question. They are the unacknowledged legislators of the world, he said with a brash cockiness. In our own century, that rambunctious American, Ezra Pound, had similarly lofty views. Poets are the antennae of the race, he declared. Emily Dickinson said poets rinsed the language. Matthew Arnold, writing in the era of Tennyson and Browning, thought poets were a quasi-priestly caste, able to fulfil the role vacated by organised religion – somewhat similar to an older view that the bard is a repository of tribal memory, a guarantor of historical verities.

If this, or any part of it, is true, why is it that so many publishers in recent years have stopped publishing the stuff? Oxford University Press was merely the most recent of many. In 1995 Sinclair Stevenson made a large group of distinguished and not so distinguished poets redundant. Hutchinson has closed its poetry list, as did Secker and Warburg in the Eighties. Penguin, aside from its Modern Poets series, scarcely has a poetry list at all, outside its anthologies and various historical compilations. The masses of poetry books published these days pour out in the main, from enthusiastic small presses and subsidised larger ones such as Anvil, Carcanet, Bloodaxe and Peterloo.

According to the massed voices of outrage raised when OUP made its announcement, the problem is one of philistinism and shortsightedness. "Even the great academic presses... have been brushed by the evil wing of Mammom," thunders *PW Review* this week, a journal edited by Michael Schmidt of the Carcanet Press. But perhaps this is not quite true. Perhaps the real reason for publishers abandoning poetry is only an indirect consequence of the fact that they cannot make enough money out of it to justify the investment. Why should that be, though? Because there is not enough of a market for the stuff. But why? Perhaps the real problem may lie not so much with those boorish publishers as with the idea of modern poetry and modern poets in general. Perhaps the reading public is genuinely confused about what poetry is and what poets are for. Are they priests of some kind, sent down amongst us to do us some good, whether it be educational or spiritual, or are they "mere" entertainers? A bit of one, a bit of the other, it seems, depending upon who you

are listening to. Unfortunately those who entertain most beguilingly are seldom worth rereading. The best entertainers are seldom book makers. First of all, let's scratch various bits of nonsense trotted out by a sycophantic media. The idea of a poetry boom, for example. There is none. Ask the publishers of Carcanet Press, Peterloo, Enitharmon, Anvil, and they will all patiently explain that it has never been more difficult to sell poetry into and out of the bookshops. Far too many poetry books are being published, and the reading public, though interested in the idea of various categories of verse (often those half-remembered from school-days), are extremely reluctant to buy books of poems by modern poets whose names may be little known to them. A poetry book tends to look expensive beside a novel in paperback, but more disturbing is the question of content. There exists a

*Poets are accorded an awestruck respect that a mere novelist can only dream about*

fear that the book may be too difficult, too abstruse, too intellectually compacted by half to really appeal. Poetry in our century has made a virtue of ambiguity, intellectual strenuousness and a kind of proud, reader-repellent costiveness; it is reaping the miserable rewards now. Anyone who doubts that might reread *The Waste Land*, our century's sacred text. But is it not in part the role of the orator to speak from behind a veil? What is profound is never easy...

However there is another difficulty facing that casual browser, hovering self-consciously as he half-decides to buy a book of poems. It is often hard to know without reading it quite what the book may contain or in what manner it may be written. Those who buy novels can scan jacket blurbs, and decide whether the theme is to their taste. Not so the reader of contemporary poetry, who is likely to find a description of the poet's disparate "concerns" – memory, loss, displacement, and that heart-sinking sequence about the loss of the *Mauretanica* in which spectral voices play off against each other.

So much for the poetry. What of the poets themselves? Poets tend to be accorded by the press a kind of awestruck respect that a mere novelist

can only dream about

All this sounds like the recipe for a richly rewarding comedy of 20th-century cultural manners.



Left: Emily Dickinson; below left, TS Eliot; right, Ted Hughes



## From the basses to the stars

IT WAS not until late in Act One, when Anne Evans launched into Leonora's great outburst "Abscheulicher! Wo elst du hin?" that Walter Weller's reading of *Fidelio* with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, led by Jacqueline H硬tley, began to warm the cockles.

Weller, a regular visitor to the CBSO and a former leader of the Vienna Philharmonic, tends to lead more than accompany, and occasionally overawes. Certainly there was a curious stiffness to the CBSO's playing initially, as if they were earnestly knocking under to orders rather than listening intently to each other. Yet at those scattered moments when Beethoven's music acquired its own unstuffed flow, the strings came gloriously into their own.

Gravitas, underlined by deliberate, carefully bowed legato and an aching slow tempo for the opening

**CLASSICAL**  
FIDELIO/WALTER WELLER  
SYMPHONY HALL  
BIRMINGHAM

quartet, seemed the keynote of Weller's approach. In its casting, the CBSO certainly came up trumps: not just Evans, a dramatic and powerfully full-blooded (if not quite so lyrical) Leonora, but a superb trio of basses, Stafford Dean, Matthew Best and Clive Bayley, to the noble-minded jailer, Rocco, the scheming Don Pizarro and Don Fernando (who arrives, preface by the famous searing trumpet call, as the opera's *deus ex machina*).

Whereas the opening family tiff between Marzelline (Lynda Russell, a mite too wide-vibrated) and her hapless fianc茅, Jaquino (Barry Banks), was overwhelmed by the orchestral balances, Best's voice that

even at its mellowest, sears through even the thickest textures like a trombone, sending a delicious shiver down the spine. It is his vowels that define his magnificent tone and enables sound to penetrate so impressively (and occasionally words too: fortunate, given the provisional demise of the CBSO's surtitles).

It was Stafford Dean's convincing Rocco, however, which brought a poignancy to the first half. A veteran of both London opera companies, and more recently a stalwart of Scottish Opera (Dvorak's *The Jacobin*, James MacMillan's *Les de Castro*, and Delius's *The Magic Fountain* later this spring), Dean seems to have regained all his old power and assurance; the all-bass trio, too, was a revelation. Ian Caley's Florestan, although notably breathless and oddly unsteady, was dignified by a warmth of delivery and poignancy of timbre that

curiously made amends. The final rejoicing with Leonora ("namenlose Freude"), skilfully executed by Weller, was delightful, as was the exquisite last scene interplay between Marzelline and Leonora (better balanced than in Act One).

If the CBSO men's chorus disappointed in the outer sections of the prisoners' chorus (only three out of 49 heads not glued to copies), it melted in the central passage ("O Himmel!"), in hushed response to two gorgeously delivered male chorus solos. A high point of the evening, certainly – as was the playing throughout of the CBSO's principal oboist, Jonathan Kelly, who lent charm to Florestan's aria and (with splendid paired horns) to the vital closing ensembles.

The performance is repeated this Thursday at 7.30pm  
RODERIC DUNNETT

## It'll all end in 'Chopsticks'

**CLASSICAL**  
STEVEN OSBORNE  
WIGMORE HALL, LONDON

MARK KRUGER  
PURCELL ROOM, LONDON

slow opening movement of the "Moonlight" were flowing and sensitive, while the allegretto of the "Moonlight" was positively chirpy.

Between them, Osborne played Charles Ives's *Three Page Sonata* with disarming exuberance, and spun its mesmerising central section with rapt concentration and listening quality that suggested he was creating the music on the spot.

That illusion of discovery lit up Debussy's first book of "Preludes". The fiercer, darker aspects of "Le vent dans la plaine" and the terror of "Ce qu'a vu le vent d'Ouest" were not stressed, but they were still

strongly played, and if "Des pas sur la neige" was not as desolate as it can be, it was beautifully melancholy. "Voiles" was exquisitely suspended in a languorous heat haze, "La sérénade interrompue" was delightfully humorous and "La danse de Fuck" was impish and seductive.

I find more music in the 10 minutes of Ives's *Three Page Sonata* than in the 50 of his probly "Concord" Sonata, however exalted the later work's reputation. In the Park Lane Group's Young Artists series at the Purcell Room on Thursday, Mark Kruger played it with exceptional assurance. If there was fault to find, it was that Kruger's composition seemed like coolness. Yet, while the South Bank's Bosendorfer limited the power and percussive impact he might have achieved on a Steinway, his finesse and control were some reward in themselves.

ADRIAN JACK

## The bones of hip hop bleached white

**POP**  
UNKLE  
OMU  
GLASGOW

seemed to be that Unkle was merely a folly for Lavelle, a chance for the 24-year-old to rope in a few heroes and indulge himself.

Whether or not this is true is, frankly, irrelevant. The fact is that the music behind the packaging is largely dull. With the exception of three tracks, it's a collection that poses as the sound of the future, yet

harks back to the days of pomp rock. There are echoes of Yes, Genesis, and Emerson, Lake and Palmer throughout – hardly surprising when you consider DJ Shadow's own far more enjoyable album *Endtroducing* had occasional leanings towards Jeff Wayne's *War of the Worlds*. More significantly, there is also a sense that, beneath the layers of strings, noises and obvious references, there is a funky heart, all but suffocated. If trip hop came to skin hip hop's groove, then Unkle have bleached the bones sickly white.

With this in mind, Sunday's show could have been a disaster; an op-

portunity for Unkle to overblow with a live band of faceless session musicians and cosmic light show. Thankfully, Lavelle opted for the potentially more radical option of employing a team of turntablists to scratch-mix the album on stage. Thus, the UK's scratch champions, The Scratch Perverts, flanked Lavelle behind the decks as between them they turned *Psyence Fiction* on its head.

The cut and flow of the scratch style reigned the funk factor in tracks like "The Knock" and "Gums Blazing", while Ashcroft's "Lonely Soul" was delivered from rock hell

and turned into a turntablist classic.

Talking to *The Independent* recently, DJ Shadow suggested that most scratch mix shows display little more than "highly evolved wrist action". There are, no doubt, some who will describe this live unit simply as Lavelle's highly evolved ego-mania. But the fact is that Unkle live offers turntablism at its best: not overbearingly clever; funky enough for the rammed crowd to dance to.

And Lavelle? Who cares if The Scratch Perverts are just the latest addition to his collection of talented friends. He is, after all, known to be someone who obsessively collects



The men from Unkle

the accoutrements of hip culture. Unkle then, are just his latest toy models. Damn funky they are too. Live at least.

MARTIN JAMES



WHEN UNKLE's *Psyence Fiction* album was released last summer, it was received with fawning praise in all quarters of the press. However, behind the hyperbole could he sensed a hint of suspicion. The accusatory finger pointed directly at Mo Wax, head honcho and self-styled Unkle figurehead, James Lavelle. The charge: what exactly does he do?

The sleeve-notes are clear in the fact that the songs were all written by Josh Davis, aka DJ Shadow. All vocals and lyrics are handled by an array of premier league guests, while James Lavelle is only attributed as co-producer. The suggestion

# Metal machine music

Futurism emerged at the turn of the century, flick-knives flashing, from the mean streets of Milan – more of a marketing campaign than an artistic movement, and a Fascist one to boot. But how else to sell the romance of the machine? By Stephen Bayley

**A**rchaeologists can accurately date any civilisation simply by looking at its vision of the future. Few things are more historically specific, more evocative of temporary local concerns, than the artistic expression of our expectations. Futurism was Italy's first contribution to modern art: an eclectic body of painters, pamphleteers, controversialists and typographers, brought together by a journalist and prankster of genius called Emilio Filippo Tommaso Marinetti.

At the time Italy was the most technically backward of the advanced countries. This, of course, encouraged a belief in the infinite possibilities of the future. It's a curiosity of modernism that the most extreme expressions of the desire for progress came not from Paris and New York, but from pre-industrial centres. The constructivist El Lissitzky and the Suprematist Kasimir Malevich came from the meanest, remotest *oblasti* of imperialist Russia. For them, modernism offered a clean redemption from the grime of serfdom. But Marinetti was not from Siberia. He was from Milan (although the fact that his famous 'Futurist Manifesto' was published in Paris, in *Le Figaro*, says all you need to know about contemporary Milanese mass media).

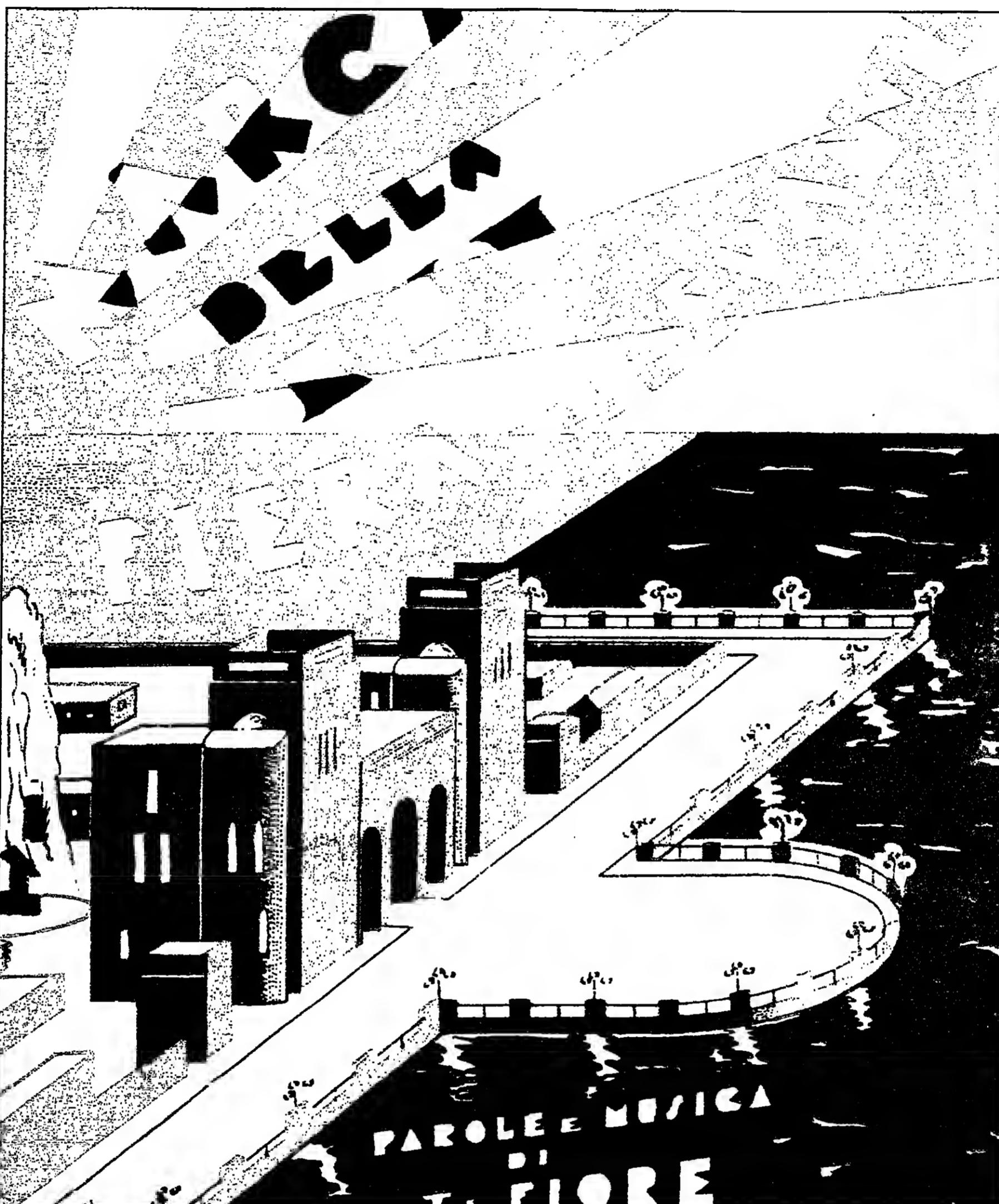
What was Marinetti's Milan like? Baedeker in 1899 comforts travellers that hotels "of the first class have lifts" (a comment eloquent of the others) and helpfully adds that a *fiacre* from the central station to the Duomo might cost 50 centesimi. It was the town of white marble and veal cutlets. The great Edwardian gourmet traveller, Colonel Newnham-Davies, describes the hilarious atmosphere of the restaurant Savini and says "a fire or a revolution could not excite the waiters more than their ordinary duties do". The Savini is still there. *Bersaglieri* officers strolled down the Galleria. They still do. Just as Marinetti was limbering up to denounce fine art and advocate racing cars and machine-guns in its place, Puccini was just finishing *La Fanciulla del West*.

Given Marinetti's distaste for gallery art, it is perhaps not surprising that Futurism's paintings are the least impressive of its achievements. With their roots in symbolism, but giving a nod to contemporary scientific interests in speed, the pictures of Giacomo Balla, Umberto Boccioni, Carlo Carrà, Gino Severini, Luigi Russolo and Ardengo Soffici are in truth only art historical curiosities. Instead, the great expression of Futurism was in typography and in performance.

And here is Futurism's significance: it realised the mood of the moment, captured and projected it. "Zang Tumb Tumb" was Marinetti's onomatopoeic poem about cannon used in the Balkan War of 1912. Later, Marinetti performed an acoustic poem about an aerial dogfight in which he made all the noises of the planes and the guns himself. This was before the talkies.

Marinetti wanted to destroy libraries, although, like Nicholas Negroponte of MIT's media lab who had to write a book to describe the awesomeness of Being Digital, the Futurists were equally committed to the expressive power of print. During the life of Futurism, more than 300 books and manifestos of one sort or another appeared.

"My revolution," Marinetti wrote, "is aimed at the so-called harmony of the page, which is contrary to the flux and reflux, the leaps and burst of style that run through the page. On the same page, therefore, we will use three or four colours of ink or even 20 different typefaces if necessary. For example: italics for a series of similar or swift sensations, boldface for violent onomatopoeias and so on." The concept was styled *parole-in-libertà*, or words-in-freedom. If the effect is not always comfortable, then you must remember that Marinetti had no interest in maintaining the snug and easy



The future isn't what it used to be: Bellini's cover for a piece of sheet music, 'Marcia della III Fiera di Levante'; top right, Tommaso Marinetti

Hulton Getty

conventions of the old culture.

Futurism is rebarbative. It is about lust and destruction, not love and creation. Music should be replaced by noise. Factor in a strong misogynist element, a love of speed and car crashes – also an influence on Puccini – and you realise there are no clichés here. You make notes about Futurism and the key words are bellicose, perverse, confrontational. It is fragmented, not cohesive. Futurism offers solutions rather than asks questions. Does any single utterance better summarise the conceit of modernism than Marinetti's remark that a racing car is more beautiful than the *Nike of Samothrace* which stands at the head of the stairs in the Louvre?

And while I think that Marinetti

was not half wrong, it must be conceded that he was a borderline lunatic. He is always stained by links with Fascism. Mussolini promised Italy an artistic revolution to follow the social revolution he was busy organising, and Marinetti taught Il Duce that Fascist art must be quintessentially Italian and should repudiate the charm and femininity of the past. When Mussolini writes of the "spiritual eroticism" of Nietzsche, you can't help thinking that Marinetti must have helped him mix his metaphors.

Futurism and Fascism shared the idea of combative opposition to the *status quo*, wherever it might be found, whatever it looked like. Publication of the Futurist compilation *Guerra solo igiene del mondo* (War the only world hygiene, 1915) led to

Marinetti's (and Mussolini's) arrest in a Rome street fight. And the Futurists were present at the launch of the *Popolo d'Italia*, forerunner of the first elected (along with Mascagni, Pirandello and the physicist Enrico Fermi).

But, to be fair, there was also present a motley of anarchists, syndicalists, communists, republicans, catholics, nationalists and liberals. History relates that it was a chaotic (rather than sinister) gathering. No one knew quite what was going on, although when some direction eventually emerged it seems that the Futurists had influenced it. Policies included returning land to the peasants, workers' representation, incongruous votes for women and decentralised government.

Marinetti contributed to the first Fascist riot when, on 15 April 1919, he helped sack the offices of Avan-

ti, a socialist newspaper. By way of thanks, in 1926 when Mussolini set up an Italian academy, Marinetti was one of the first elected (along with

Mascagni, Pirandello and the physicist Enrico Fermi).

But there is something a little innocent about all this pre-aerocity posturing and play-acting. Futurism's lasting achievement was to explore new media and articulate the romance of the machine. Fortunato Depero was probably the most authentic of Futurism's talents. His book *Depero Futurista* (1927) used two industrial bolts to hold it together; 40 years before Pontus Hulten published a metal-bound book to celebrate the machine age at New York's Museum of Modern Art.

And what else did Futurism leave behind? Marinetti's daintest (and

therefore most memorable) publication was *Cucina Futurista* (1931) (Futurist Cook Book) in which he advocated stroking a little velvet while sniffing eau-de-cologne. This seems to have had very little influence on Ruthie Rogers and the River Café crowd, although the epochal scooter can claim an aesthetic and technical inheritance from the ideas swimming and flying about the Futurist review *Estetica della macchina*.

Piaggio's designer, Corradino d'Ascanio, who drew the Vespa, was a chum of Marinetti's bizarre accomplice, the poet d'Annunzio. And who knows? Maybe Marinetti's 1927 book *Scatole d'Amore in Conserva* (boxes of love conserved) later inspired Piero Manzoni so famously to can his own excrement. But, all in all, Futurist "art" was a blind alley.



Instead, we can see that what Futurism did was to reassess leadership in the visual arts from painters to designers. Anyone who has admired a poster and found fine art wanting is in touch with the spirit of Marinetti and Fortunato Depero. In fact, Futurism was more like a marketing campaign than an artistic movement. Their fascination with and exploitation of mass media anticipated and influenced advertising in the 20th century.

Depero (1892-1960) wrote in *Nuovo Unico Futurista Campari* (1931), a book about advertising art: "Although I paint freely inspired pictures every day, my commercial productions are created with an equal harmony of style, with the same love, with no less enthusiasm and care."

And then, after a sustained discharge of disrespectful and anarchic energy, Futurism wound down. By the mid-Thirties life was not imitating art; life had utterly transcended art in its ability to exalt, astonish and dismay. For all his perverse genius Marinetti could not imagine anything as striking or as solemnly beautiful as, say, a Savoia-Marchetti plane, or as ravishing as an Alfa-Romeo 8C car.

Nor could this man, this urbane Edwardian journalist and pamphleteer, intimate of *bersaglieri* officers, imagine anything as horrifying as the *Blitzkrieg* – although he did live to see it. If he had been on the Polish front witnessing the cavalry attempting to stop the panzers, you suspect that for all his mechanistic bravado Marinetti's true sympathies would have been with the riders not the tanks.

This is what you think when you visit "Zang Tumb Tumb" at the Estorick Collection, just a few hundred yards from the filthy roar of Highbury Corner. It is a superlative little exhibition in an idiosyncratic building of hilariously inappropriate elegance and charm. An hour here, sustained by a *pomino* tricolore and a glass of prosecco, is just about the most civilised way I can imagine spending an hour in north London.

Marinetti standing in N1 would scarcely have believed how his vision had been achieved and even surpassed. The roar of traffic, the throb of a helicopter, the rumble of a jumbo. As the Futurists would have said: *Blitz + 18*. Liberating words from their Latin prison was quite an achievement, although what Fortunato Depero would have made of Adobe Photoshop we can scarcely imagine. As I say, archaeologists can accurately date any civilisation simply by looking at its vision of the future.

"Zang Tumb Tumb, the futurist graphic revolution" runs until 11 April at The Estorick Collection, 39a Canonbury Square London N1 2AN (0171-704 9522). Wed-Sat, 11am-6pm; Sun, Noon-5pm. Admission £2.50; concessions £1.50

## THE INDEPENDENT COLLECTOR

JOHN WINDSOR'S GUIDE TO COLLECTING CONTEMPORARY ART. THIS WEEK: DAVID THORPE

AT LEAST one critic made the error of describing David Thorpe's pictures as "paintings" when they were shown in Martin Malone's *Die Young Stay Pretty* exhibition at the ICA, in central London.

Closer inspection reveals that they are collages of coloured art paper whose contours are half a centimetre deep in places. He cuts out shapes with a scalpel – it took him a day to cut out each tree in his big 5ft by 5ft *After the Rain*, shown right – then puts them under the mattress on the floor where he sleeps. After several nights they are well and truly stuck

Paintings they are not, but they are certainly about painting. Their hard-edged segments of flat colour seem to mimic the cool new realism in painting that has caught Charles Saatchi's eye, and to carry it a stage further: Thorpe's greatest influence is on the featureless and beguiling paintings of fashionable women by the American Alex Katz, one of Saatchi's favourites.

Two years ago a rudimentary two-tone Thorpe collage cost £500. Now his prices range from £1,000 to £3,000. Some of those early collages, of nocturnal urban architecture, will be shown in the Saatchi

Gallery's *Neurotic Realism* later this year – and he is negotiating a commission with Saatchi for a 10ft by 10ft collage. His gallerist, Maureen Paley, of Interim Art, will be taking *After the Rain* to next month's international *Armory Show* of new art in New York.

The ICA show was the first of Malone's to include Thorpe's work. Malone was his tutor in art theory on his MA fine arts course at Goldsmith's College.

Thorpe, 26, began making rural scenes when he realised he was making landscape. He started looking at the silhouettes in the highly

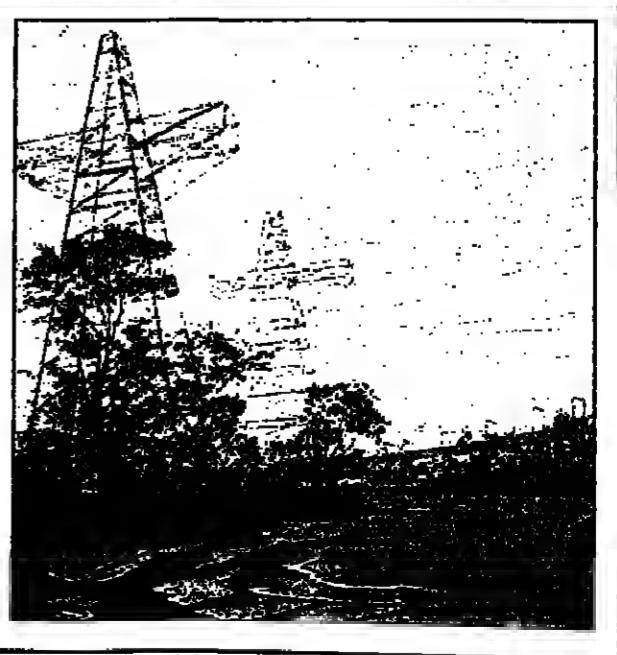
polished landscapes of Claude, Friedrich and Fragonard. There is a back-to-basics feel about his work.

If Claude were alive today, would he have dwarfed his flat, seemingly cut-out trees with electricity pylons instead of classical temples? He would certainly not have lost the romantic blend of sylvan simplicity and monumentalism that Thorpe's work echoes. Art paper and spray-on photo-montage glue would probably not have appealed to Claude's 17th-century French taste. In Thorpe's work, the collage technique – a craft skill – underlines the humility of his vision.

There are few people in Thorpe's collages (and no nymphs or shepherds). But there is a sense of narrative – a bit like Raymond Carver's novels, he says, in which nothing much happens but you sense that a lot is going on.

Thorpe's three-room flat in south London is a bit like that. The fine spray of glue settles everywhere, trapping dust and small objects in a glutinous immobility. Several flatmates have quit rather than get trapped in it.

Interim Art: 0171-254 9607



## MEDIA

## VIRGIN RADIO: THE PEAKING OF THE GINGER EFFECT



## Snap, crackle, pop go the ratings.

Time was when all Chris Evans had to do to attract listeners was turn up. But is he now losing his appeal? By Paul McCann

The "Ginger effect" at Virgin Radio may have peaked. Newspapers are already forecasting that ratings for Chris Evans's station will slip for the second successive quarter when the audience research for October, November and December is published on 4 February.

So what is happening at Virgin Radio and what will it mean for the career of Britain's most hyped broadcaster? Since Evans joined in autumn 1997, (and bought it two months later), the station's audience jumped up and has since fallen slowly back down. In three-month increments, the station's audience went from 3.2m, then to 3.9m, and to 4.2m. By June last year it had peaked at 4.24m,000, then in October slipped to 3.91 – the figure that prompted the headlines.

Next month, it seems, the station will record another drop. Private tracking by rival stations indicates that the station should see a small increase in London but may lose another 150,000 listeners in total across the country. Evans's breakfast show itself lost 336,000 listeners in the autumn, and unofficial research suggests the fall is set to continue, if at a slower pace.

Adding to the suspicion that all is not well with Virgin's ratings is the appearance of Evans on a Virgin sports round-up show on Saturday afternoons. The man who left the BBC because he was too tired to do Radio 1's Breakfast Show five days a week and *TFI Friday* on Channel 4 every Friday, is now working even harder at his own station.



Chris Evans and his breakfast show team in happier times

replacements Mark (Radcliffe) and Lard (Mark Riley).

But the real importance of ratings now is not on Evans's ego, but on advertising revenue. And here the "Ginger effect" is yet to slip. In the first two months of October, the first full year of Evans's time there, Virgin Radio took £27,836,000 in advertising, an increase of 6.8m or 33 per cent on the previous year. Given that the amount of money going into commercial radio over the same period increased by 18 per cent, it means Virgin's income is increasing almost twice as fast as the market.

Because Virgin's increase in advertising revenue has increased faster than the increase in listeners, advertising agencies must be paying a premium for the station – that is the Ginger effect. Because of the publicity Evans generates and the perception that his fans avidly listen to the station, and therefore its advertising, its well-run sales team has been able to get good prices from agencies. Although revenue figures are not yet available from when the station's ratings started to fall, media buyers haven't yet softened the price of Virgin airtime. They are

waiting to see if new audience figures show the trend continuing.

A climate of slipping ratings shows just how big a gamble Chris Evans was taking when he decided to put together a bid for Virgin.

Evans and the Ginger management own 60 per cent of the company. But in a complicated deal, what was bought in December 1997 was actually a new creation called Ginger Media Group. Richard Branson, who was planning to sell his station to Capital, swapped Virgin for 20 per cent of this new company, and around £16m. The money came

from venture capital company Apax Partners, which owns 20 per cent of the company. More money was borrowed from the French bank Paribas. To raise the money for Branson, Evans effectively mortgaged his rights to *TFI Friday* and much of his future.

Apax was set up to bring American-style venture capital to the UK. Its style is to take risks that UK venture capital firms won't take, and it has been involved with Virgin since Branson launched it. But in return for taking bigger risks, Apax plays a very tough game. In the past, even very outwardly successful companies, such as the Covent Garden Soup Company, which have not fulfilled the Apax business plan, have been taken over. Apax will have no hesitation in taking over control of Ginger to get its value back.

Indeed some observers believe that Ginger moved from its original offices and crammed everyone into Virgin Radio in Soho after six months because of an order from the Apax boss, Alan Patricoff, to cut costs. Yet Ginger announced profits at Virgin of £10.5m in October, which seemed an amazing turnaround for a station which is believed to have cost Richard Branson over £10m since he started it.

The profits come from the "Ginger" advertising revenue and a £1m deal with BSkyB for the satellite broadcaster to sponsor the breakfast show and for Ginger Television to come up with programme ideas for Sky One.

That Sky deal included simulcasting the Evans breakfast show on Sky each morning. That show has

not been a success. Sky's ratings for the show are so low as to be unmeasurable, and on air Evans himself can be heard disparaging the small number of viewers.

Other Ginger Television ventures have only been slightly more successful. The two showings of *TFI Friday* get 2.8m viewers together in slots that Channel 4 should expect to get nearer 5m. *TFI* has the advantage of keeping Evans and Ginger's talents at Channel 4 – but a university pub-quiz show for BBC 2 starring Ginger producer Will MacDonald has yet to be recommissioned as a series, and the golfing show for Channel 4 hosted by Evans managed less than spectacular ratings.

Ginger Television lost its chief executive, Michael Foster, in an acrimonious fall-out last autumn, and last week announced that Eileen Gallagher, the former managing director of London Weekend Television, would be taking over the television division.

If Virgin's ratings continue to fall – and impact on advertising revenue – then the other parts of Ginger have to do better at making programmes which sell.

It will not be make or break for Chris Evans's future as a media tycoon, but 4 February will provide another sign that a whole business cannot be based on one man's broadcasting talents.

"There is not a crisis at Ginger," says one radio industry financier. "But the size of the gamble seems to have gotten bigger. Chris Evans will either make £100m from all this or he will go bust."

## NME faces the music

Glossy magazines and the decline of Britpop has led to a fall in sales for the *NME*. This month it will discover if a redesign has stopped the rot. By Paul McCann

THE LAST word on music journalism was Frank Zappa's. It was he who said: "People who cannot write, talking to people with nothing to say, for people who cannot read."

Another truism is that the music press is always in crisis. In the next few weeks the latest sales figures for *NME* will be released. They will show whether a radical redesign, completed this month, has saved Britain's most venerable music newspaper. If not, rock journalism is set to disappear forever into glossy magazines.

The last crisis to strike was dance music. The faceless creators of house and techno tunes hardly lent themselves to long features and personality journalism. Instead, they spent their time in their bedrooms and let DJs become the celebrities of the scene. DJs are, in the main, businessmen who are leaping around the country making thousands a night playing clubs. They rarely throw things out of hotel bedrooms and give paranoid interviews while on drugs.

For some titles, like *Q* and *Mojo*, there was a living to be made throughout the dance music explosion by targeting older readers. These were the guitar-band fans who found themselves back in the music market because they wanted to replace their albums with CDs.

Then came Britpop. *Oasis*, *Pulp* and *Blur* should have been like manna from heaven to the *NME*'s sales. Unfortunately, the magazine's sales slide continued. It was selling 100,000 before its redesign and is now selling 92,000. In the next few weeks,



Oasis brought readers to 'NME', but now the B'witched tendency is hurting sales

here were rock stars again. *NME* increased its sales eight circulation periods in a row. Britpop probably came too late for *Melody Maker*, which is now selling 41,000 copies.

This is less than *The Spectator* and down from over a quarter of a million in the Seventies. However, the glossy end of the music market and the general lifestyle magazines, like *Loaded* and *FHM*, did even better out of the Britpop explosion.

*IFC*, the owner of *NME*, decided last year that it needed a revamp. After years as an inky newspaper, *NME* turned itself into a modern, review-section-type magazine last year. Unfortunately, the magazine's sales slide continued. It was selling 100,000 before its redesign and is now selling 92,000. In the next few weeks,

the six-month sales figures for July to December last year will be available; music fans and *IFC* alike will be watching with interest.

The problem *NME* has hit this time is an upsurge in pop – which stands for everything the magazine has always hated. Where once *Oasis* and *Blur* dominated, now it is the turn of B'witched and Steps.

"It is machine-manufactured music for machines to listen to," says Steve Sutherland, the editor of *NME*. "These are lean times for music magazines and pop is not an area we can write about."

*NME* is now trying to actively kick-start the new phase of musical fashion through marketing. Rather than a conventional awards ceremony, it has a documentary about its

readers' poll winners going on Channel 4 on 27 January and has just kicked off a 20-date tour of the kind of unknown bands it specialises in.

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## THE WORD ON THE STREET

EAGERLY AWAITED is the forthcoming story of *Live TV* by Chris Horrie, the man who wrote *Stick It Up Your Punter*. The story of *The Sun*. The book is being kept under wraps until the *Mail on Sunday* serialisation, fearing an injunction from Kelvin MacKenzie, one-time boss of *Live TV*. MacKenzie is aghast at this suggestion: "After what Horrie wrote about me in *Punter*, I've hardly got a reputation to protect," he says. MacKenzie is mostly upset that Horrie will make money from writing about his career: "I reckon he's made about £50,000 a year from me."

Surprisingly MacKenzie did not co-operate with the hook – although he did agree to be interviewed if Horrie paid him £100,000. Horrie retorted that for that kind of money he could get someone decent – such as Sam Chisholm. The only time Horrie managed to get Kelvin's attention was when he wrote to him in Norwegian in honour of the channel's weather girl.

LAST THURSDAY the *Daily Mail* decided things were looking grim again for President Clinton. Under the headline "Could this boy bring down the President?" the *Mail* ran a picture of Danny Williams, the son of a prostitute allegedly fathered by Clinton. On Friday the *Mail* declared there was an "uncanny likeness" between Clinton and



the boy. According to the *Mail*, people used to look at Danny in Arkansas shops and say: "That must be Bill Clinton's boy." Well, as we now know, they were wrong. The DNA tests cleared Clinton, and yesterday a downbeat *Mail* reported a White House spokesman saying that if Danny looks like the President, "I'm a space alien".

IT WAS good to see *ITN* – in its coverage of the forthcoming royal wedding – go for a long period to the *OK!* picture editor, who said how wonderful Sophie was and what a great asset for the royals. And they ought to know, because the PR company that Sophie works for has *OK!* as a client.

CHARLIE WHELAN has not stopped spinning, whatever his present job situation. He was still telling journalists last week that Gordon Brown will be the

next prime minister of Britain, and more important, that he would be that prime minister's press spokesman. One doubts that Alastair Campbell ever dreams of a job in a Brown administration, but all too easy to imagine Whelan dreaming of the day he asks Campbell to clear his desk.

BBC 1 CONTROLLER Peter Salmon has been making excuses for his channel's fall in ratings on Christmas Day, compared with last year. Turns out we are all getting so many videos under the tree on Christmas morning – and watching them straightaway – that it affects conventional television ratings. The main culprit this year was *Titanic* – Salmon estimates that 3.5m copies of the video appeared in stockings this year.

Perhaps the BBC thinks that there should be a new rule – you can only watch your Christmas videos when there is another repeat on the telly.

THE NATIONAL Magazine Company boss, Terry Mansfield, famously blows a gasket when any of his editors gets poached. He recently attacked *Emp* for stealing Fiona McIntosh from *Company* to be editor of *ELLE*. Now rumour has it that *IPC* is trying to hire Mandi Norwood, editor of *Nat Mag's Cosmopolitan*, to edit its deadly rival, *Marie Claire*.

Police corruption, child abuse, war orphans – no subject is too gritty for documentary film-maker David Hart. By Rhys Williams

# I guess that's why they call it the Blues

**W**hen David Hart's production company, Hart Ryan, began work on a documentary about the Merseyside police five years ago, John Major was still Prime Minister, the party he led still had a working majority in the Commons and the team he supported – Chelsea – had about as much chance of winning the league as Iceland had of reaching the beach volleyball finals at the Atlanta Olympics.

Since then, the world has spun more than 1,800 times. Chelsea lead the Premiership, Labour is in power, and although Iceland remain a marginal force in beach volleyball, Hart Ryan has finally finished the film about the police. The results will be seen tomorrow night when BBC 2 screens the first in the five-part series, *Mersey Blues*.

OK, so there were certain extenuating circumstances, like the arrest and prosecution for corruption of one of the featured detectives. That delayed the film by a couple of years, but that still makes a total of three in the making. Such a protracted approach to the productive process is rare to the point of anachronistic in quick-fix, while-you-wait Britain. It's not necessarily an operating standard at Hart Ryan, but nor is it feared or frowned upon by Hart. "We make programmes that we stick by when others would have long given up," he says.

*Orphans of War*, a feature-length documentary screened on Channel 4 last year, took a year and a half to make, while the company has spent as much time on a *Cutting Edge* film scheduled for broadcast this year, which is still unfinished. Called *The Accused*, it follows a couple accused of child abuse who are effectively gagged from protesting their innocence by the legal requirement to protect the child's identity.

Still, the patience seems to be paying off. Hart Ryan has been short-listed as best independent production company in this week's Broadcast Production Awards, while *Orphans of War* is nominated for best single documentary (a prize it

is widely expected to take). Its debut docu-soap, the eight-part prime-time *Lakesiders*, was well received last year and has helped company turnover nudge £2m. Around 35 people are currently working on two series for Channel 4 and two *Cutting Edge* films, while a commissioning editor at the network has just told them that Hart Ryan is their biggest supplier of documentaries.

It did not look this bright in April 1992 when, on his 50th birthday, Granada made Hart redundant after 20 years with the company. With the half-century up, he admits feeling briefly that this was it, the end of his film-making career, and that maybe he just should take the pension.

*'I've worked for TV companies where, at the first sign of trouble, everybody runs. You think twice about what you know to be the truth'*

"But I was pretty confident in the quality of my learning curve," he says. "I had been to film school, covered the Six Day War, had been in Biafra and stood at Martin Luther King's lying in state."

And then there was the urging and support of his former Granada colleagues: Michael Ryan, who suggested they work together, and, most significantly, Claudia Milne, who by then was at 20/20. During a yachting holiday that summer, she persuaded the pair to make a *Cutting Edge* film about maltreatment at Broadmoor.

The *Cutting Edge* team at Channel 4 suggested they make some more. The result was *Navy Blues*, a two-part about the Navy's Special Investigation Branch that drew in seven million viewers, then the highest audience for a Channel 4 documentary. More significantly, it drew public attention to the perse-

uation of homosexuals in the services and helped ensure the issue reached the floor of the Commons.

Hart Ryan followed up with *Shops and Robbers*, a landmark film that pulled in 10 million and beat ITV and BBC in the ratings. The back room in Hart's Tooting home was no longer large enough to house the company's rapidly expanding workload and ambition. There was the intensely controversial two-part film *Traitor King*, which exposed Edward VIII's far-right sympathies, and *The Core Connection* from the *Dispatches* strand, which revealed that children in care were being recruited as prostitutes.

"Leaving Granada was the best thing that ever happened to me, although I didn't think it at the time," Hart says. "It re-energised me. At 50, if I'd have stayed, I'd have been making the odd film and looking forward to retirement. Whereas now..." But he is saddened by what his and other colleagues' departure has come to signify. "The old Granada of Sidney Bernstein and David Plowright was a place you felt safe. If you had a story and you believed in it, they would back you."

"We were savaged over the tea programmes [which revealed the dreadful conditions in which Sri Lankan tea pickers worked] because we attacked Brooke Bond and the Co-op. We were summoned to Sidney Bernstein's office and I thought we were going to get a hollocking. In fact, they said 'let's get the bastards'." We worked for TV

companies where, at the first sign of trouble, everybody starts running. You don't get any support and you think twice about what you know to be the truth.

"Current affairs and factual output has changed for a number of reasons, a lot of it to do with money. In the Seventies, they put resources into something knowing that after six months nothing might happen and we'd have to junk it. The whole question of risk has been taken out of television. Risk-taking is financially unacceptable, so the quality of television has declined as a result."

Hayling believes Hart's other great strength is his willingness to support young programme-makers, "to give them a break and some

kind of training". Sam Kingsley was a press officer at Channel 4 with no film-making experience before she helped produce and direct *Orphans of War*. The film follows the photojournalist Nick Danziger as he attempts to raise three Afghan children adopted from a Kabul orphanage. It is a moving story open to all sorts of sentimentalism, but the understated film keeps pathos in check and lets the characters lead the narrative. "It's a tremendous film," says Hayling, "which raises all sorts of interesting questions about refugees, the war in Afghanistan, adoption and how Nick is dealing with it."

Jenny Crowther was once a secretary at Channel 4. Four years ago, she produced *The Core Connection* for Hart Ryan, and now she

is for the queen", as it's known. It features CCTV footage of doormen being shot at a Liverpool night club and, something of a break for the programme team, the arrest for corruption of one of the detectives in the series, Elmore Davies. Last year he was found guilty and sentenced to five years in prison.

"I don't think that [his arrest and conviction] was luck, because I think it's very sad," says Hart. "He was very helpful to us. I never believed for one moment he was capable of the acts he was convicted for. I was astounded when it happened and, if given the choice between a scoop and him not being guilty, then it's the latter because it's a life that's been ruined."



Film-making by David Hart, above, has 'a real documentary function and a popular touch'. Below left, his latest offering, *Mersey Blues*; below right, the highly acclaimed *Orphans of War*, up for a Broadcast Production Award Philip Meech, BBC



## What's a girl like you doing on a magazine like this?

The woman once voted 'most likely to run a brothel' is cracking the editorial whip at the *Erotic Review*. By Paul McCann



Rowan Pelling: 'the odd arousing tale' Neville Elder

SEVENOAKS OBVIOUSLY doesn't produce many women quite like Rowan Pelling. Despite her cut-glass Home Counties accent and her education at a school for the daughters of missionaries, she has made it on to the frontboards of the *Sevenoaks Chronicle*. "Mother Defends Daughter's *Erotic Review*" promised newsagents last year, giving hope to deepest Tory Kent that there was to be some salacious stage show in their midst.

In fact Rowan Pelling, the daughter, is the 31-year-old editor of the *Erotic Review* – the literary magazine with a bent towards sex. Just 12 months ago the *Erotic Review* was a quarterly four-page newsletter for the Erotic Print Society – purveyors of old-fashioned filth to a select mailing list.

Then Ms Pelling took over and the *Review* became glossy, attracting writers such as Auberon Waugh. She made the magazine a bi-monthly which by last Christmas was selling 30,000 copies an issue. Now this month it has become a monthly and the magazine distribution company Comag promises to get it into ever more newsagents and book shops.

When Ms Pelling is asked what a nice girl like her is doing editing a magazine about sex in Soho, Sevenoaks would be proud of her reply: "I just thought there was something about the idea that was really jolly and British," she says. And she admits to being slightly predisposed to the job: "At school, we used to do these round robin stories where you wrote a line each, and I was very good at the sex and shop-

ping style. I also have a vague memory of being voted the girl most likely to run a brothel. I'm sure I wouldn't have been asked to do it if it was thought I would blanch at the idea."

Ms Pelling started as PR manager at the Erotic Print Society, but was soon taking the newsletter further than before. She approached Auberon Waugh to ask him to write. Then, deciding she had a quality magazine on her hands, she phoned Waterstone's to see whether they would stock it. In a stroke of genius she offered to let them keep the profits from the copies they sold.

Since then other writers have come aboard, with *The Independent's* David Aaronovitch appearing in the next issue. Writers as diverse as the design guru Stephen Bayley, Toby Young, Naim Atallah, Michael Bywater, Peter Stringfellow and the former *Catholic Herald* editor Christine Odone have written for it.

Ms Pelling deals with the question of whether her magazine is porn in a disarmingly frank way: "No. Porn is mechanistic. People buy it for a specific reason. No one buys the *Erotic Review* to masturbate with." Indeed there may be the odd arousing tale, but most of the *Review* is just good writing.

"We thought we would say no to certain kinds of subject matter, but then in the Christmas issue we ran a piece about a mother and son by Simon Raven. It worked on many different levels – it was Ortonesque black humour from a deep vein of bad taste. But was funny enough and good enough to get away with it."

There is a sense that what really

distinguishes the *Erotic Review* from porn is class, but whether it is classy writing or social class is probably a moot point. There is a patina of poshness on the whole enterprise. Much has been written about how many retired colonels and vicars subscribe – and it certainly does best when advertised in *The Daily Telegraph*.

And Ms Pelling's first job after Oxford was with the original in-house magazine, *Private Eye*. The Erotic Print Society itself was the idea of two posh art dealers – Jamie Maclean, son of Sir Fitzroy Maclean, and Tim Hobart.

The *Erotic Review* fits into that network of writers and chums which produces magazines on a shoestring – Pelling is the only full-time member of staff and sometimes works through the night to meet deadlines. It is much more like the *Eye*, *The Oldie* and the *Modern and Literary Review* than anything that might really upset her mum and the *Sevenoaks Chronicle*.

It was the idea of two posh art dealers – Jamie Maclean, son of Sir Fitzroy Maclean, and Tim Hobart.

The *Erotic Review* is up for a Broadcast Production Award Philip Meech, BBC

The *Wall Street Journal Europe*, founded in 1983 and edited in Brussels, is still underperforming. Its continental sales are 55,000, compared with 103,000 and rising for the FT in the key market of Germany. It is outsold almost two to one (21,500 as against 12,000). In Britain, there's no contest, with the FT's 179,000 sale dwarfing the *Journal's* 13,000.



However, *The WSJ Europe's* editor, Frederick Kempe, is in bullish mood. "History plays into our hands now," he says. He believes that the euro and globalisation mean a newspaper with an American culture can explain developments better than any other.

But why should Europeans start buying *The Journal* when there is a

plurality of home-grown financial publications – especially when, with its lack of photographs and colour, it looks dowdy?

However, the paper regularly carries original and offbeat stories, not all business-related, that are followed up by the British press. Its philosophy, carried over from its American sister, of absorbing facts and presenting forward-thinking analyses inside its news stories makes it stand alone among European newspapers.

"The *Journal* is in many ways the most European paper of all," says Jonathan Miller, the former managing business editor of *The European*. "The problem with the rest of the European business press, including the FT, is one of not thinking with a continental perspective." Curiously, the main obstacle fac-

ing the continental expansion of the world's biggest business newspaper may be doubts about its own business strategy. Dow Jones officials won't confirm whether a large promotional budget will be assigned despite a \$200m investment in its American sibling. A senior editor on a rival continental paper commented: "The more narrow-minded will always see it as an extension of US business imperialism. It'll take a lot of promotion to change that."

Mr Kempe agrees that there is a problem with perception. "It's a gross misperception that we're writing for American expatriates. That needs to be changed."

However, it is a perception reinforced by criticisms that the paper is reluctant to promote non-Americans and that its coverage of the rest of the world can still look like it was written by and for Americans. And, with an average year-on-year increase of fewer than 2,000 readers, the real question is: can *The WSJ* win over the European business community? The problem is whether a good product priced at £1.25 a day and perceived as quintessentially foreign is enough to stop the FT – the market leader – gaining a stranglehold on the market. *The WSJ's* editors claim is theirs for the taking.

On Wall Street, the historical critique of Dow Jones has been that, as a company run by journalists (both Ms House and chief executive Mr Kann are Pulitzer Prize winners) it lacks the business edge of rivals, such as Pearson. And, as a source close to the Bancroft family said: "The product isn't the problem."

But with US sales strong (at 1.8 million) and the paper's interactive, subscription-only website widely regarded as the most successful of its kind, insiders say that the Bancroft family are happy to hold their peace for now. Ms House appears to have quieted her critics, for the moment at least, and the battle of Euroland promises to be a long one.

Can the top US business daily cut it in Europe? By Darius Sanai

## Wall Street shuffle

IT WAS one of the most comprehensive savings to appear in *Vanity Fair*. Karen Elliott House, the president of Dow Jones International and also the wife of the corporation's chief executive, Peter Kann, was portrayed by the investigative journalist Robert Sam Anson as a "ferocious" and pushy striver who trudged on fellow executives on her swift rise to the top.

Many thought Ms House was finished. At the time, in August 1997, Dow Jones, the parent company of *The Wall Street Journal*, was suffering, laden with an expensive new financial-services acquisition, Telerate, and its share price was lagging. Members of the Bancroft family, the East Coast wasps who own the company, were openly expressing their dissatisfaction with Mr Kann and the whole board.

But today, as *The Wall Street Journal* celebrates its 110th birthday, the gravel-voiced Texan lady is still there. Telerate has been sold off. The share price has started to rally. And *The Wall Street Journal Europe* posted a record sales figure of 65,000 and its first ever profit last year.

"With the single currency, *The Journal's* American roots are an asset," Ms House asserts in her husky drawl. "People need a publication that has a global perspective. They need to know what's happening across borders."

Ms House has a tough adversary in Marjorie Scardino, who is at the helm of Pearson, which owns the *Financial Times*. Two tough American women and two giant business dailies are battling it for the European market. But *The WSJ Europe*, founded in 1983 and edited in Brussels, is still underperforming. Its continental sales are 55,000, compared with 103,000 and rising for the FT in the key market of Germany. It is outsold almost two to one (21,500 as against 12,000). In Britain, there's no contest, with the FT's 179,000 sale dwarfing the *Journal's* 13,000.



## NEW FILMS

**LITTLE VOICE** (15)

Director: Mark Herman  
Starring: Jane Horrocks, Michael Caine  
Holed up in her bedroom, timid North Country sparrow LV (Jane Horrocks) cannibalises her dead dad's record collection, perfects strident Shirley Bassey/Judy Garland impersonations, then falls in with Michael Caine's impresario; a low-rent, Bermuda-shirted buckster with one rheumy eye on the big time. Broads Blasphem trundles around in a hip-hugging mini-skirt as LV's mum, Ewan McGregor pops up as a simple pigeon-breeder, and seedy seaside cartoonery runs as a garish visual backdrop. Where Mark Herman's last film *Brassed Off* was a whole and solid effort, *Little Voice* proves altogether more hasty and piecemeal. For while the director does a decent spot of carpentry in remodelling Jim Cartwright's stage-play for the screen, the result still trades in gestures and caricature and is further hindered by tentative pacing. Bracing black comedy, Horrocks's vocal pyrotechnics, plus a marvellously weighted turn from the rejuvenated Caine, push it through to the final curtain. *West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Mayfair, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Phoenix Cinema, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road*

**π** (15)

Director: Darren Aronofsky  
Starring: Sean Gullette, Marj Margolis  
Aronofsky's pungent debut idles in a kind of anteroom between malice lesson and art class, as Sean Gullette's New York number-cruncher ponders a numerical code behind the holy Hebrew texts, and designer flourishes overturn the screen. The rhythm runs on a staccato beat - the tone is self-consciously lugubrious. What sustains π is the pure-blood ingenuity of its central conceit, its ongoing "mathematics is the language of nature" mantra, and the louche, too-cool-for-school demeanour. It all adds up. *West End: Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Screen on the Hill*

**PSYCHO** (15)

Director: Gus Van Sant  
Starring: Vince Vaughn, Anne Heche  
Homage or sacrifice? Photocopy or experiment? Whichever camp you fall into, Gus Van Sant's

shot-by-shot *Psycho* reconstruction is a bizarre undertaking. Here, the original's high-contrast black-and-white is dumped in favour of Edward Hopperish colour. Hefty Vince Vaughn stands in for twitchy Anthony Perkins, Anne Heche for Janet Leigh, and Julianne Moore for Vera Miles. In the meantime, Van Sant simply runs through a karaoke cover-version of the Hitchcock classic: a pitch-perfect bit of movie mimicry which has a definite curiosity value without ever quite adding up to much more besides. File this one under "White Elephants". *West End: Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Phoenix Cinema, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket*

**THE SIEGE** (15)

Director: Edward Zwick  
Starring: Denzel Washington, Bruce Willis  
A rare Hollywood attempt to get to grips with contemporary geopolitics, *The Siege* winds up a boisterously finger-and-thumbs affair. The nominal hook (Muslim terrorist bombing in New York) gets draped with all manner of garbled goings-on as Denzel Washington's FBI man rubs shoulders with Bruce Willis's gung-ho army renegade. Zwick desperately attempts to touch all the bases, but even the speedy, kinetic editing can't gloss over his film's messy marriage of perfumery liberalism and noisy chest-beating. *West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Phoenix Cinema, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road*

**TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT** (PG)

Director: Howard Hawks  
Starring: Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall  
That immortal "You know how to whistle, don't you?" line aside, *To Have and Have Not* has come to be more highly regarded for its behind-the-scenes history than its narrative content. Conceived as a Casablanca cash-in, and irreverently adapted from what Hawks reckoned to be Hemingway's worst novel, this wartime drama is credited with getting Bogart (then an unhappily married megastar) together with 19-year-old Bacall. The taut, proficient plot has Bogart's Martinique-based skipper sandwiched between the Vichy government and the Free French resistance. Hawks directs with a pointed, easy grace. *West End: Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Screen on the Hill*

**ANTZ** (PG)

Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar cast stars Woody Allen as worker-ant "Z". *West End: Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero*

**THE APPLE** (S18)

Samir Makhmalbaf's precocious debut stages a true-life re-creation of the fortunes of Iran's Naderi sisters. Part docu-drama, part rites-of-passage fable, this is a luminous and extraordinary missive from a burgeoning Iranian film scene. *West End: Metro, Renoir*

**A PERFECT MURDER** (15)

This remake of Hitchcock's classic *Dial M for Murder* is actually not at all bad. Michael Douglas stars as the cuckolded city shark who blackmails an artist into killing his heiress wife, Gwyneth Paltrow. This is gold-plated trash: the sort of thing Hollywood does better than anyone else. *West End: Warner Village West End*

**THE PRINCE OF EGYPT** (U)

In planning his cartoon life of Moses, DreamWorks' Ireland-set saga pinpoints the ebb and flow of an eccentric Catholic family in deepest Donegal. What gives it backbone is Meryl Streep's regal performance as the brood's eldest sister, plus the ever-watchable Michael Gambon as the homecoming brother. Kathy Burke, Catherine McCormack and Brid Brennan also feature. *West End: Barbican Screen*

**THE DREAM LIFE OF ANGELS**

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. *West End: ABC Swiss Centre*

**ELIZABETH** (15)

Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to *Bandit Queen* is the story of a female figurehead struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But opportunities for fun are largely neglected in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. *West End: ABC Panton Street, Curzon Minima, Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

**ENEMY OF THE STATE** (15)

Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse and gets embroiled in all manner of Big Brother-type trouble. This is a big, noisy and effectively claustrophobic conspiracy thriller, with a top-drawer cast including Jon Voight and Gabriel Byrne. *West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road*

**THE MASK OF ZORRO** (PG)

This gaudy swashbuckler gallops through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. *West End: Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

**THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY** (15)

Ben Stiller, Cameron Diaz and Matt Dillon star in this latest comedy from the pathologically tasteless writer-director team of Peter and Bobby Farrelly. The film is basically a soft-centred romance of the kind that drifts out of Hollywood wood on a regular basis. *West End: ABC Piccadilly, Odeon Mezzanine*

**WHAT DREAMS MAY COME** (15)

Robin Williams perfects a lopsided simper as the dead chap who lights out to a cod-impressions beaver, before jetting southward to rescue his suicide-bride. *West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Odeon, Haymarket, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

**MY NAME IS JOE** (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. *West End: ABC Panton Street, Clapham Picture House, Virgin Haymarket*

**THE NEGOTIATOR** (15)

Samuel L Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to

**GENERAL RELEASE**

head in Gray's thrilling drama. *West End: Warner Village West End*

**OUT OF SIGHT** (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. *West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero*

**THE PARENT TRAP** (PG)

*The Parent Trap* catches Disney rebeating its 1961 Hayley Mills heartwarmer into a spry tale starring Lindsay Lohan as the separated-at-birth twin sisters (one British, one American) determined to reunite their parents (Natalie Richardson, Dennis Quaid). *West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea*

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**RONIN** (15)

Rather than adding value, John Frankenheimer's 40 years as a feature director lend an air of knackered resignation to his latest movie, which stars Robert De Niro. *West End: Odeon Mezzanine*

**RUSH HOUR** (15)

Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker's star in this hit-and-miss affair. *West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

**SITCOM** (18)

In this scatological satire of middle-class mores, François Ozon takes pleasure in dismantling a standard nuclear family. The result is savage and funny one moment, indulgent the next. *West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho*

**STAR TREK: INSURRECTION** (PG)

A belated Christmas gift for Trekkies the land over, *Insurrection* hits the cinemas studded with in-the-know gags and wrapped up in more cornball romance than we're used to. *West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero*

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See *The Independent Recommends*, above. *West End: ABC Panton Street, Clapham Picture House, Virgin Haymarket*

**THE NEGOTIATOR** (15)

Samuel L Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to

## THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

## THE FIVE BEST FILMS

**The Acid House** (18)

A trio of interrelated shorts culled from the stories of Irvine Welsh. Début director Paul McGuigan turns this into a bit of a triumph, adapting his style well to the shifting landscape of Welsh's tales. A cracker, all told.

**The Dream Life of Angels** (18)

Erick Zonca's remarkable début draws its strength from the contrasting personalities of Isa (Eloïse Bouchez) and Marie (Natacha Régnier), whose friendship comes alive amid the drab environs of Lille.

**Mulan** (U)

In Disney's animated tale, a girl disguises herself as a soldier to spare her ailing father from certain death in combat. This movie has it all, and is one of the most visually innovative films that Disney has ever made.

**Out of Sight** (15)

Steven Soderbergh's tale of love on opposite sides of the law knocks spots off previous Elmer Leonard adaptations, and boasts in Jennifer Lopez and George Clooney (above) the swooniest cinematic pairing of the year.

**My Name is Joe** (15)

All that one would expect from a Ken Loach film - humour, indignation, emotional sympathy - driven by Peter Mullan's starkly intense performance as a recovering alcoholic.

ANTHONY QUINN AND XAN BROOKS

## THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

**Copenhagen** (Cottesloe)

Michael Frayn's profound and haunting meditation on science, morality and the mysteries of human motivation (below). To 27 Jan

**The Tempest** (Barbican Theatre)

David Calder is a magnificently querulous and authoritative Prospero in an imaginative RSC staging by Adriano Noble. In rep to 4 Mar

**Kafka's Dick** (Piccadilly Theatre)

Spiriting Kafka to suburban England, this uproarious romp by Alan Bennett survives some peculiar casting in Peter Hall's revival. To 26 Feb

**Just Not Fair** (Birmingham Rep)

Moving account by Jim Robinson of 18 years' wrongful imprisonment of the Bridgewater Four. Will be performed in rep with Wilde's equivalent prison testament, *De Profundis*. To 30 Jan

**A Month in the Country**

(Swan Theatre, Stratford)

A conjunction of two great artists and cultures. Ireland's finest living dramatist, Brian Friel, adapts Turgenev's proto-Chekhovian comedy. To 20 Feb

PAT TAYLOR

## THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

**Charlotte Salomon** (Royal Academy)

"Life? Or Theatre?". Salomon's life in pictures. Her 40 raw gouaches tell the story of the German Jewish girl's hasty before Auschwitz - an expressionistic opéra in three colours. To 17 Jan

**Neurotic Realism** (Saatchi Gallery)

First instalment of Charles Saatchi's new, made-up art movement, which, by a happy coincidence, coexists entirely of works in his own collection. To 28 Mar

**Chris Ofili** (Whitworth Gallery, Manchester)

This 1998 Turner Prize-winner is an upbeat original, its surfaces dense and decorative, with swirls of dots, Africa and black icons, and incorporating elephant dung. To 24 Jan

**Edward Burne-Jones** (Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery)

This centenary exhibition gathers together many favourites illustrating Burne-Jones's romantic and medievalist nether world. To 17 Jan

**Grinling Gibbons** (Victoria & Albert Museum)

The best chisel-work of the great 17th-century English woodcarver (above), who made intricate and elaborate carvings. To 24 Jan

TOM LUBBOCK

The Siege 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm  
Star Trek: Insurrection 3.55pm, 4.25pm, 6.20pm, 7pm, 8.55pm, 9.35pm What Dreams May Come 8.25pm

FELTHAM CINEMAWORLD THE MOVIES (0181-867 0555) BR: Feltham Antz 1pm, 3pm, 5pm Dali Sajak Rakha 6.05pm Enemy of the State 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 7pm, 9.10pm, 9.50pm Jhoola Bole Kaava Kaate 3.15pm, 9.50pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hal 2.40pm, 6

# 6/LISTINGS

ILFORD  
ODEON (08705-050007) ♦ Gants Hill Enemy of the State 12noon, 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Little Voice 1.50pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm Psycho 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm The Siege 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

HILLBURN  
TRICYCLE CINEMA  
(0171-322 1000) ♦ Kilburn Little Voice 6.30pm, 8.45pm (+ Short: Kings of Slam with 8.45pm performance only)

KINGSTON  
ABC OPTIMUS (0870-902049)  
BR: Kingston Enemy of the State 1.25pm, 3.15pm, 5.05pm Psycho 2.25pm, 4pm, 8.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.25pm, 8pm, 8.30pm

ASWELL HILL  
ODEON (08705-050007) ♦ Highgate Enemy of the State 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm The Prince of Egypt 12.10pm, The Siege 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.05pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm

PECKHAM  
PREMIER (0181-235 3006)  
BR: Peckham Rye Enemy of the State 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8pm Little Voice 5.05pm, 7.10pm, 9.15pm Psycho 4.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.25pm Rush Hour 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm The Siege 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4.50pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm

PURLEY  
ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley Enemy of the State 4.55pm, 8pm The Siege 5.10pm, 8.10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 6.10pm, 8.35pm

PURLEEV  
ABC (0870-902 0404) BR: Putney, ♦ Putney Bridge Enemy of the State 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm Little Voice 1.5pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

RICHMOND  
ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Richmond Enemy of the State 3pm, 6pm, 9pm Little Voice 2pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.30pm The Siege 1.45pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Sex/Life in LA (NC) 9pm Tuesday No Skin Off My Ass (18) 5pm, 7pm

ODEON STUDIO (08705-050007)  
BR: Richmond The Mask of Zorro 10pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm Out of Sight 6.30pm, 9.20pm The Prince of Egypt 2.10pm, 4.20pm Psycho 2.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm

ROMFORD  
EC (0870-9020419) BR: Romford Enemy of the State 2.25pm, 7pm, 8.10pm Psycho 2.30pm, 4.25pm, 8.25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.15pm, 6.10pm, 8.25pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705-050007)  
BR: Romford Energy of the State 1.20pm, 4.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 4.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm Psycho 1.20pm, 4.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm The Mask of Zorro 1.20pm, 4.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 4.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm

PRINCE CHARLES (0171-47 8181) BR: Prince Charles The Mask of Zorro 1.20pm, 4.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm Psycho 1.20pm, 4.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 4.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS CINEMA  
Crisp Road (0171-624 0100) Kundun 12.15pm, 6pm + The Knowledge of Healing 8.30pm

PHOENIX CINEMA High Road N2 (0181-444 6729) Little Voice (15) 1.20pm, 4.15pm, 5.30pm, 8.45pm

PRINCE CHARLES (0171-47 8181) BR: Prince Charles The Mask of Zorro 1.20pm, 4.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm Psycho 1.20pm, 4.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 4.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm

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WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street, Bradford, Middlesex (0161-568 1176) Rien Ne Va Plus (15) 1.20pm, 4.15pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm

BRIGHTON  
DUKE OF YORK'S CINEMA (01273-602503) ♦ (P) (15) 4.30pm, 8.50pm The Mighty (PG) 6.45pm

BRISTOL  
WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) Insomnia (18) 6pm, 8.25pm Little Voice (15) 6.05pm, 8.35pm

CAMBRIDGE  
ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444) The Philadelphia Story (U) 1.30pm, 7.15pm Scream (18) 3pm, 9.20pm The Fountainhead (PG) 5pm

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WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) Insomnia (18) 6pm, 8.25pm Little Voice (15) 6.05pm, 8.35pm

CARDIFF  
CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-389666) The Bel (Unagi) (18) 7.30pm Character (Karakter) (15) 8pm

CHICHESTER  
NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243-786650) The Horse Whisperer (PG) 4.25pm Ne Va Plus (15) 6.15pm Out of Sight (15) 8.45pm

IPSWICH  
IPSWICH FILM THEATRE (01473-215544) Archive Shorts (NC) 1pm

INSOMNIA (18) 6pm, 8.15pm My Name is Joe (15) 6.15pm, 8.30pm

NORWICH  
CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) The Boys (18) 2.30pm, 5.45pm The Governess (15) 8.15pm

STREATHAM  
ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill Antz (PG) 10pm The Prince of Egypt 2.10pm, 4.25pm Psycho 2.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.30pm, 5.05pm, 8.40pm What Dreams May Come 3.55pm

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ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill Antz (PG) 10pm The Prince of Egypt 2.10pm, 4.25pm Psycho 2.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.

## TUESDAY RADIO

**RADIO 1**  
(97.6-99.8MHz FM)  
8.30 Zoo Ball. 9.00 Simon Mayo.  
12.00 Kevin Greening. 2.00  
Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris  
Moyle. 6.00 Dave Pearce. 8.00  
Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session.  
10.00 Digital Update. 10.10  
John Peel. 12.00 The Breeze-block.  
2.00 Clive Warren. 4.00  
8.30 Scott Mills.

**RADIO 2**  
(88.9-90.2MHz FM)  
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce.  
12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker.  
7.00 Alan Freeman: Their Greatest Bits. 8.00 Nigel Odon. 9.00  
Vosburgh's Further Follies. 10.00  
Susan Jeffreys: Says Make It a Double. 10.30 Richard Allinson.  
12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.00  
4.00 Alex Lester.

**RADIO 3**  
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)  
6.00 On Air.  
9.00 Masterworks.  
10.30 Artist of the Week.  
11.00 Sound Stories.  
12.00 Composer of the Week:  
Rimsky-Korsakov.  
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. (R)  
2.00 The BBC Orchestras.  
4.00 Voices.  
4.45 Music Machine.  
5.00 In Tune.  
7.30 Performance on 3. Francis Poulenc was one of the century's most successful composers of vocal music, with a range very much from the sublime to the ridiculous. Penny Gore introduces a celebration of his achievement, featuring leading interpreters of his music. Rapsodie negre. Francois Le Roux (baritone), Nash Ensemble, Three Novelties. Steven Osborne (piano). Graham Johnson (piano). Tel jour, telle nuit. Ian Bostridge (tenor), Graham Johnson (piano). Un soir de neige: Chansons francaises. BBC Singers/Jane Morgan. Le bal masqué. Francois Le Roux (baritone), Nash Ensemble. See Pick of the Day.  
9.40 Postscript. Paul Neuberg continues his exploration of the Communist project which sought to use the arts to remould people's minds. 2: Engineering the Engineer's. With the dawn of the socialist realist era, the re-engineering of human souls - and the reconstruction of writers and artists into engineers of the vast effort - took centre stage in the drama of Communism and the arts.  
10.05 BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. Introduced by Martyn Brabbins in conversation with Andrew Toovey. Conductor Martyn Brabbins. Andrew Toovey: Red Icon.  
10.45 Night Waves. Richard Coles profiles one of the most distinguished and challenging poets at work in Britain today. Religion and the horrors of the Holocaust have been recurring themes in the work of Geoffrey Hill, but in his new, book-length poem 'The Triumph of Love', he explores his own 'slow haul to forgive'. See Pick of the Day.  
12.00 Composer of the Week: Poulenc. (R) See Pick of the Day.  
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

**RADIO 4**  
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)  
6.00 Today.  
9.00 NEWS: No Triumph, No Tragedy.  
9.30 The New Recruit.  
9.45 Serial: The Doctor, the Detective and Arthur Conan Doyle.  
10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.  
11.00 NEWS: Nature: Insight.  
11.30 The Galton and Simpson Radio Playhouse.  
12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.

## PICK OF THE DAY

THE CORNISH writer Nick Darke, whose latest stageplay, *The Riot*, is shortly to open at the National, provides today's *Afternoon Play* (2.15pm RT). In *Bawcock's Eve*, versions of the same myth about a heroic boy-fisherman are told in a Mousehole B&B, which shelters a mysterious, heavily pregnant visitor. There is some superbly tetchy dialogue, particularly

well-served by Barbara Jefford's Gran, whose voice sounds as worn as an old harbour wall. Radio 3 tonight covers Poulenc in Performance on 3 (7.30pm) and Composer of the Week (12midn't). In between on *Night Waves* (10.45pm RT). Richard Coles profiles one of our finest living poets, Geoffrey Hill (right).

DOMINIC CAVENDISH



12.57 Weather.  
1.00 The World at One.  
1.30 Full Orchestra.  
2.00 NEWS: The Archers.  
2.35 Afternoon Play: Elemental Tales. *Bawcock's Eve*. See Pick of the Day.  
3.00 NEWS: The Exchange: 0870 010 0444.  
3.30 Tales from the Village.  
3.45 This Sceptred Isle.  
4.00 NEWS: The Learning Curve.  
4.30 Shop Talk.  
5.00 PM.  
6.00 Six O'Clock News.  
6.30 The Cheese Shop Presents.  
7.00 NEWS: The Archers.  
7.15 Front Row. John Wilson with the arts programme.  
7.45 Lady Susan. Drama: 'Lady Susan' by Jane Austen. Adapted by Lavinia Murray. With Harriet Walter and Maggie Steed. Director: Jocelyn Boxall (2/10).  
8.00 NEWS: True Colours - South Africa Today. Johannesburg and the Old Transvaal. Johannesburg, the economic heartland, is also the engine of nation-building in the new South Africa. Here they talk about the African nation. But, where does that leave the whites?  
8.40 In Touch. Peter White with news for visually impaired people.  
9.00 NEWS: Case Notes Special: No Issue. 'Too High'. The ideal contraceptive has yet to be invented. Tracey Logan explores how science will change fertility in the future.  
9.30 No Triumph, No Tragedy. The second of six programmes in which disabled achievers in the

United States talk frankly to Peter White about how their disability has affected their lives. 2: Brett Walker. The television anchorwoman talks about the genetic disability of her hands and feet which caused a furor in America when she opted to have children.  
10.00 The World Tonight. With Anne McKenzie.  
10.45 Book at Bedtime: *Nana*. Juliet Stevenson reads Emile Zola's colourful novel of the Parisian demi-monde, a powerful evocation of the corrupt world of the Second French Empire (7/15).  
11.00 The Patrick and Maureen Mayba Music Experience. Patrick Barlow and Imelda Staunton play Patrick and Maureen, a couple who should have split up long ago. Instead, they snap at each other publicly and infinately argue.  
11.30 The Late Book; Last Resort.  
12.45 Shipping Forecast.  
1.00 As World Service.  
5.30 World News.  
5.35 Shipping Forecast.  
5.40 Inshore Forecast.  
5.45 Prayer for the Day.  
5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.  
RADIO 4 LW (198kHz)  
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service.  
12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines;

## SATELLITE AND CABLE

## PICK OF THE DAY

THE WORD "maverick" must be one of the most overused in journalism. However, it really does apply to director Samuel Fuller. Often difficult, his work never runs the risk of being staid or conventional. It is examined in detail in tonight's documentary, *The Typewriter, the Rifle and the Movie Camera* (9pm FilmFour), in which the octogenarian is interviewed by Tim Robbins (right). Back in California,

Robbins and Quentin Tarantino pay a visit to Fuller's study, which contains mementoes, his first movie camera and scripts which were never filmed. The evening also showcases some of Fuller's finest movies, including: *Pickup on South Street* (6pm), starring Richard Widmark and *Fury* (7.30pm), where Barbara Stanwyck gives an iconic performance as a whip-wielding ranch-owner.

JAMES RAMPTON



Football (8/2057). 7.30 Fastax: (087) 8.00 Greyhound Racing. 8.00 Sky Sports Centre. (51057). 9.00 Younger. 9.35 Wish You Were Here. 7 (4394). 10.00 NEWS: The Oprah Winfrey Show (60657). 10.00 *Guilty* (58218). 12.00 Jenny Jones (71837). 1.00 *MTV: You're the One*. 1.30 *Acquisition*. 2.00 *Acquisition* (46749). 3.00 Jenny Jones (60723). 4.00 *Guilty* (58252). 5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (5299). 6.00 *Married with Children* (5831). 6.30 *Dream Team* (5133). 7.00 *The Simpsons* (5228). 7.30 *The Simpsons* (51057). 8.00 *Sally Jessy Raphael* (60657). 10.00 *The Oprah Winfrey Show* (60657). 11.00 *Guilty* (58218). 12.00 Jenny Jones (71837). 1.00 *MTV: You're the One*. 1.30 *Acquisition*. 2.00 *Acquisition* (46749). 3.00 Jenny Jones (60723). 4.00 *Guilty* (58252). 5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (5299). 6.00 *Married with Children* (5831). 6.30 *Dream Team* (5133). 7.00 *The Simpsons* (5228). 7.30 *The Simpsons* (51057). 8.00 *Sally Jessy Raphael* (60657). 10.00 *NEWS: The Archers*. 11.00 *Guilty* (58218). 12.00 Jenny Jones (71837). 1.00 *MTV: You're the One*. 1.30 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